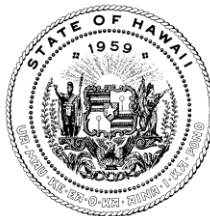


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, March 15, 2019  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 808, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION**

House Bill 808, House Draft 1 proposes to prohibit, establish criminal penalties, and establish administrative fines for any person who knowingly captures, takes, possesses, abuses, entangles, or kills any shark within state marine waters; expands the existing protection for rays within state marine waters; and provides certain exemptions. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, and offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the important role sharks and rays play in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems, and the detrimental impact from significantly depleting their populations in our waters. The Department also recognizes the importance of these species for native Hawaiian cultural beliefs and practices, as well as their value for ocean recreation and tourism.

The Department supports regulating the take of sharks and rays, and will implement this measure by adopting regulations through the administrative rulemaking process to evaluate and apply scientific management principles, give due consideration to public interests, and carefully craft language to avoid conflict with existing state and federal laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



**HB808 HD1**  
**RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION**  
Senate Committee on Water and Land

March 15, 2019

1:15 p.m.

Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB808 HD1, which would prohibit the killing, capturing, or otherwise harming of any shark or ray species in state waters.

**OHA supports strong protections for culturally important species that also serve critical ecological functions.** As this bill recognizes, Hawai‘i’s shark and ray species may hold special cultural significance for Native Hawaiians. For example, sharks and rays are recognized as kinolau for Kū and Kanaloa, and certain individuals and species can be regarded as ‘aumakua by some families. Sharks and rays are also featured in mo‘olelo, ‘ōlelo no‘eau, and other cultural narratives that inform the Hawaiian understanding of the world and our natural environment. OHA also understands that the ecological services provided by apex predators such as sharks promote a healthy ocean environment, which is necessary for the continuation of Native Hawaiian cultural and subsistence practices. **Accordingly, OHA appreciates the proposed enhanced protections for shark and ray species in state waters.**

OHA notes that sharks and rays are also used for traditional and customary practices, including in the crafting of implements, weapons and ceremonial objects; OHA accordingly further appreciates the proposed statutory language explicitly allowing for the continuation of such cultural practices.

Finally, OHA appreciates the inclusion of Hawaiian names for sharks and rays, specifically the use of manō (shark) and hīhīmanu (ray) in the respective section titles of the measure. OHA notes that while Hawaiian language references confirm the name hīhīmanu for various classes of rays, there are at least two other names commonly associated with rays: hāhālua and hailepo. OHA respectfully suggests that all three names commonly associated with rays be included in the appropriate section title to ensure Hawaiian terms are consistent with the measure’s purpose to expand protection to all species of rays.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB808 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting HB 808 HD1 Relating to Shark and Ray Protection  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Friday, March 15, 2019, 1:15 PM, Room 229

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 preserves and work in over 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs, waters and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnership with government, private parties and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and the many benefits they provide to people.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports HB 808 HD1 and the effective management of reef associated sharks by protecting them in the state waters of Hawai'i.

As drivers of highly productive nearshore marine ecosystems in Hawai'i, sharks represent keystone species, the removal of which has disproportionate impacts to coral reef ecosystems. Data demonstrating the vital role sharks fill as apex predators, derived in part from surveys conducted in the unfished waters of what is now the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Friedlander and Demartini, 2002), confirms that intact apex predator populations increase the efficiency and productivity of coral reef ecosystems by removing unfit individuals from the population and exerting top-down pressure on prey species.

Rather than suppressing prey populations, shark predation selects for fast growing, healthy individuals. Further, research cruises in other coral reef archipelagos demonstrates that shark dominated apex predator biomass positively correlates to live coral cover (Sandin *et al.*, 2008), confirming the importance of sharks from an ecosystem perspective.

Reef associated species of sharks are slow growing and vulnerable to rapid over-exploitation based on their predatory behavior and territorial range from tens to hundreds of kilometers. Because they are disproportionately important members of healthy coral reef ecosystems, and more vulnerable to exploitation than many other marine species, sharks should be afforded special management considerations.

Wide-ranging species such as sharks are best managed by species-specific rather than place-based regulations. Laws that protect sharks from harvest are an important component of effective management for these keystone species. It is important not to dilute such regulations based on the public perception that sharks are dangerous or undesirable. There is no demonstrable evidence that intact shark populations correlate to increased danger for swimmers. Indeed, where sharks have been protected and reefs well managed, such as in Palau, these apex predators are important and iconic cultural, economic and ecological components of healthy coral reef communities

Friedlander AM, DeMartini EE (2002) Contrasts in density, size, and biomass of reef fishes between the northwestern and the main Hawaiian Islands: the effects of fishing down apex predators. *Mar Ecol Prog Ser* 230:253–264. doi:10.3354/meps230253

Sandin SA, Smith JE, DeMartini EE, Dinsdale EA, Donner SD, et al (2008) Baselines and Degradation of Coral Reefs in the Northern Line Islands. *PLoS ONE* 3(2): e1548. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0001548



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

**MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.***

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**LATE**

March 15, 2019    1:15 PM    Room 229

**In SUPPORT of HB 808 HD1:** Relating to Shark and Ray Protection

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports HB 808 HD1**, which would outlaw the intentional killing, capture, abuse, or entanglement of sharks and rays in state marine waters with certain exemptions.

In 2010, Hawai'i became the first state to enact a ban on the sale of shark-fins or fin products. To this date, 13 states have adopted similar measures following Hawaii's footsteps. HB 808 HD1 would further complement existing law, which has now become a global initiative, and further maintain Hawaii's global conservation leadership in shark and marine conservation. While current laws prohibit the possession or sale of shark fins or fin products there is no law preventing the capture, abuse or killing of sharks in state waters. Furthermore, current law prohibits the take of only Manta Ray species. This measure would extend this protection to all species of rays in state waters.

Sharks and rays keep our oceans in balance by regulating the food chain and ensuring our reef ecosystems are diverse and healthy. They are also a significant species in Native Hawaiian culture and important economically to ocean recreation industries. Simply put, these important species deserve our protection.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 808 HD1**.

Mahalo,

Jodi Malinoski, Policy Advocate



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**

**TO: Honorable Chair Senator Kaiali'i Kahele & Members of the Committee on Water and Land**

**March 15, 2019**

**FROM: Heather Carpenter, Western Regional Director, The Humane Society of the United States, [hcarpenter@humanesociety.org](mailto:hcarpenter@humanesociety.org), Phone number: 702.929.2999**

**RE: SUPPORT FOR HB808 HD1; Relating to Shark and Ray Protection**

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society International and our members and supporters across Hawaii, we urge your support of HB808 HD1, which would impose penalties for anyone who knowingly captures, takes or kills sharks or rays in state waters except for a few specific exemptions, such as research purposes, under DLNR issued Special Activity Permits, exercising native Hawaiian gathering rights and cultural practices and at the discretion of DLNR for specific, emergency public safety reasons.

**Why sharks and rays need protection:**

- Hawaii is one of the first states to prohibit shark finning. In 2010, Hawaii became the first state to enact a ban on the sale of shark-fins or fin products. To this date, 13 states have adopted similar measures following Hawaii's footstep. HB808 HD1 would further complement existing law, which has now become a global initiative, and further maintain Hawaii's global conservation leadership in shark and marine conservation. While current laws prohibit the possession or sale of shark fins or fin products there is no law preventing the capture, abuse or killing of sharks in state waters.
- With the growing interest and number of commercial tour operators involved in ray diving tours, this measure would ensure that protections are afforded to ray species. If enacted, with HB808 HD1 Hawaii would establish another "first in the world" record by prohibiting the take, capture and killing of ray species in state waters.
- The number of shark and ray landings globally increased by 227% from 1950 to 2003.<sup>1</sup> However, actual number of animals killed is much larger since these data represent when animals are caught and brought to shore (landed) and do not account for illegal catches or discards.

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<sup>1</sup> IUCN Shark Specialist Group. Questions and Answers.

- One quarter of shark and ray species are threatened with extinction due to overfishing and other fishing threats. Five out of the seven most threatened Chondrichthyan species are rays.<sup>2</sup>
- Tens of millions of sharks are estimated to be killed annually for their fins. While anti-finning laws are designed to halt further shark population declines, many species are still threatened and face possible extinction. Recent research from the University of Hawaii<sup>3</sup> has shown that many species of shark, such as tiger and hammerhead, frequent state waters, especially the marine shelf around Maui, and are faced with numerous threats most notably humans and pollution.
- There is no directed commercial shark fishery in Hawaii state waters. HB808 HD1 would not be expected to have a negative economic impact on commercial fishing interests. Commercial fisheries operating in federal waters reported catching 85,067 sharks and releasing 84,441 of them.<sup>4</sup>
- This measure does NOT preempt or impact federal fishing laws, and only applies to Hawaii state waters.
- With the growing number of interactions between ocean users and shark and rays, this measure would prevent consideration of ineffective mass culling efforts and those individuals who may target sharks due to misinformation. Cases involving cruelty against sharks in recent years<sup>5</sup> have prompted public outcry and highlighted public desire for strong penalties for cruelty against sharks.<sup>6</sup>
- Sharks are apex predators and play a vital role in maintaining the balance of marine ecosystem. Research has found that massive removal of sharks has a cascading effect throughout the ecosystems that they inhabit.
- Current law prohibits the take of *only giant oceanic* Manta Ray species. HB808 HD1 would extend this protection to all species of rays in state waters (listed below), including Torpedo, Stingray, Devilray and Eagleray, Manta alfredi (reef manta ray) and Mobula tarapacana (sicklefin devilray).
- Rays are killed in massive numbers for their meat, gill rakers, gill plates, and fins (called “wings” and also used in shark fin soup) and traded worldwide. The significant increase in global demand for these parts poses a major threat to multiple species of vulnerable elasmobranchs.<sup>7</sup> HB808 HD1 would prevent any future trade in harvesting rays in the Hawaii state waters as we saw recently with the mass commercial harvesting of our sea cucumbers by international companies. DLNR has since prohibited commercial harvest of sea cucumbers.
- Sharks and rays share life history traits that make them particularly vulnerable to overexploitation and population collapse.<sup>8</sup> These include slow growth; low fecundity;

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.iucnssg.org/global-conservation-status-of-sharks-and-rays.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.voanews.com/a/2641635.html>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/fmb/reports/hlreports/areport\\_items.php?yr=2014&type=tbl&num=1](http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/fmb/reports/hlreports/areport_items.php?yr=2014&type=tbl&num=1)

<sup>5</sup> Video of tiger shark torture sparks outcry in Hawaii. [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/13/shark-torture-video-n\\_3922319.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/13/shark-torture-video-n_3922319.html)

<sup>6</sup> Three Florida men charged for shark dragging. <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/12/12/3-florida-men-charged-in-shark-dragging-video.html>

<sup>7</sup> Ellis, J. R., S. R. McCully Phillips, and F. Poisson. 2017. A review of capture and post-release mortality of elasmobranchs. J. Fish Biol. 90:653–722.

<sup>8</sup> Ebert, D.A. 2001. Sharks, Rays, and Chimaeras of California. University of California Press.

few, well-formed young; long gestation period; and delayed age at first reproduction that together are known in the ecological literature as a “K-selected life history”.<sup>9</sup>

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important marine conservation issue. We urge swift passage of HB808 HD1.**

Below is a list of the 40 species of sharks and rays that may be found in Hawaii waters. DLNR notes that it is difficult to distinguish between certain species of sharks and rays thus this measure applies to all sharks and rays.

**Hawaii Shark and Ray Species List:** <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/sharks/hawaii-sharks/species-list/>

(EN: Endangered; VU – Vulnerable; NT – Near Threatened; LC: Least Concern; DD – Data Deficient)

### **Sharks**

#### **Order Orectolobiformes**

##### **Family Rhincodontidae**

Whale shark, *Rhincodon typus*, VU

#### **Order Carcharhiniformes**

##### **Family Scyliorhinidae**

Sponge-headed cat shark, *Apristurus spongiceps*, DD

##### **Family Pseudotriakidae**

False cat shark, *Pseudotriakis microdon*, DD

##### **Family Carcharhinidae**

Bignose shark, *Carcharhinus altimus*, DD

Gray reef shark, *Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*, NT

Silky shark, *Carcharhinus falciformes*, NT

Galapagos shark, *Carcharhinus galapagensis*, NT

Blacktip shark, *Carcharhinus limbatus*, NT

Oceanic whitetip, *Carcharhinus longimanus*, VU

Blacktip reef shark, *Carcharhinus melanopterus*, NT

Sandbar shark, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*, VU

Tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, NT

Blue shark, *Prionace glauca*, NT

Whitetip reef shark, *Triaenodon obesus*, NT

##### **Family Sphyrnidae**

Scalloped hammerhead, *Sphyrna lewini*, EN

Smooth hammerhead, *Sphyrna zygaena*, VU

#### **Order Lamniformes**

##### **Family Odontaspidae**

Smalltooth sand tiger shark, *Odontaspis ferox*, VU

Bigeye sand tiger shark, *Odontaspis noronhai*, DD

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<sup>9</sup> Hoenig, J.M. and Gruber, S.M. 1990. Life-History Patterns in the Elasmobranchs: Implications for Fisheries Management in Elasmobranchs as Living Resources: Advances in the Biology, Ecology, Systematics, and the Status of the Fisheries (H.L. Pratt Jr., S.H. Gruber, and T. Taniuchi, eds.) NOAA Technical Report 90 (1990).

**Family Psedocarchariidae**

Crocodile shark, *Pseudocarcharias kamoharai*, NT

**Family Megachasmidae**

Megamouth shark, *Megachasma pelagios*, DD

**Family Alopiidae**

Pelagic thresher shark, *Alopias pelagicus*, VU

Bigeye thresher shark, *Alopias superciliosus*, VU

**Family Lamnidae**

White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, VU

Short-finned mako, *Isurus oxyrinchus*, VU

Longfin mako, *Isurus paucus*, VU

**Order Hexanchiformes****Family Hexanchidae**

Frilled shark, *Chlamydoselachus anguineus*, NT

Bluntnose sixgill shark, *Hexanchus griseus*, NT

**Order Squaliformes****Family Echinorhinidae**

Prickly shark, *Echinorhinus cookei*, NT

**Family Dalatiidae**

Combtooth dogfish, *Centroscyllium nigrum*, DD

Kitefin shark, *Dalatias licha*, NT

Blurred smooth lantern shark, *Etmopterus bigelowi*, LC

Blackbelly lantern shark, *Etmopterus lucifer*, LC

Smooth lantern shark, *Etmopterus pusillus*, LC

Hawaiian lantern shark, *Etmopterus villosus*, LC

Pygmy shark, *Euprotomicrus bispinatus*, LC

Cookiecutter shark, *Isistius brasiliensis*, LC

Viper dogfish, *Trigonognathus kabeyai*, DD

Velvet dogfish, *Scymnodon squamulosus*, DD

**Family Centrophoridae**

Mosaic gulper shark, *Centrophorus tessellatus*, DD

Gulper shark, *Centrophorus granulosus*, VU

**Family Squalidae**

Shortspine spurdog shark, *Squalus mitsukurii*, DD

**Rays****Order Torpediniformes****Family Torpedinidae**

Torpedo ray, *Torpedo sp.*, DD or LC, depending on species

**Order Myliobatiformes****Family Plesiobatidae**

Giant stingaree, *Plesiobatis daviesi*, LC

**Family Hexatrygonidae**

Sixgill stingray, *Hexatrygon bickelli*, LC

Longnosed deepwater ray, *Hexatrygon longirostra*, IUCN uncertain whether separate species

**Family Dasyatidae**

Diamond stingray, *Dasyatis dipterura*, DD

Brown stingray, *Dasyatis lata*, LC

Pelagic stingray, *Pteroplatytrygon violacea*, LC

**Family Myliobatidae**

Spotted eagle ray, *Aetobatus narinari*, NT

**Family Mobulidae**

Manta ray, *Manta birostris*, VU

Spinetail devil ray, *Mobula japanica*, NT



**TO:** Honorable Chair Kahele and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land  
March 15, 2019, 1:15 P.M.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Inga Gibson, Policy Consultant, West Hawaii Humane Society  
[ponoadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:ponoadvocacy@gmail.com), 808.922.9910

**RE: STRONG SUPPORT for HB808, Relating to Shark and Ray Protection**

The West Hawaii Humane Society respectfully urges your support of HB808 which would prohibit the capture or killing of sharks or rays in state waters (within 3 nm) except for research purposes, under DLNR issued Special Activity Permits, the use of shark parts/products for native Hawaiian cultural purposes and at the discretion of DLNR if necessary for emergency purposes.

In 2010, Hawaii became the first state in the world to enact a prohibition on shark-finning and the sale of shark-fins or fin products. This measure would complement this existing law, which has now become a global initiative, by again poising Hawaii to be a leader in shark and marine conservation. While current laws prohibit the possession or sale of shark fins or fin products there is no law preventing the capture or killing of sharks.

Tens of millions of sharks are estimated to be killed annually for their fins. While anti-finning laws have improved shark populations, many species are still threatened and face possible extinction. Recent research from the University of Hawaii has shown that many species of shark, such as tiger and hammerhead, frequent state waters, especially the marine shelf around Maui, and are faced with numerous threats, most notably human activity and pollution (SEE: Hawaii Scientists Study Threatened Shark Species).

There is no directed commercial shark fishery in Hawaii waters so this would not be expected to have a negative economic impact on commercial fishing interests. Evidence suggests that juvenile reef sharks are taken in small numbers by Hawaii's aquarium trade for personal aquariums outside Hawaii, but, citing confidentially, DLNR does not release any specific data on the numbers of sharks taken for aquarium purposes. Further, this measure does NOT preempt or impact federal fishing laws, and only applies to Hawaii state waters (3 nm).

With the growing number of interactions between ocean users and sharks this measure would prevent consideration of any ineffective culling efforts including individuals who may target sharks due to misinformation about their importance in overall ocean health and resiliency.

Finally, sharks are apex predators; when they are removed our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted. In addition, sharks and rays are not a staple human food source as other fish species are. There are an estimated 40 species of sharks that may be found in Hawaii



waters. DLNR notes that it is difficult to distinguish between certain species of shark thus this measure applies to all sharks.

Current law prohibits the take of only Manta Ray species. This measure would extend this protection to all species of rays in state waters (listed below), including Torpedo, Stingray, Devilray and Eagleray, Manta alfredi (reef mantas) and Mobula tarapacana (sicklefin devilray).

While the trade has not yet hit Hawaii, China and other countries have begun mass harvesting of rays for their gills/gill soup, especially since shark populations are still facing serious decline and many states and island nations now prohibit selling shark fin products. This measure would prevent any future trade in harvesting Hawaii rays as we saw in 2015 with the mass commercial harvesting of our sea cucumbers for international interests (DLNR has since prohibited the commercial harvest of sea cucumbers).

Rays are known to be among the slowest marine species to reproduce. For example, new data on manta ray reproduction suggest that they may reproduce even more slowly than previously believed, with a maximum lifetime reproduction potential estimated at only 5 to 15 offspring. Such extremely low reproductive capacity shows that manta and mobula rays are far more vulnerable to exploitation than previously known, and that immediate investment in their conservation is necessary to avoid continued rapid declines (SEE: <http://www.wildaid.org/mantas>)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important marine animal protection measure.

**LATE**

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 4:22:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Wintner	Testifying for Snorkel Bob's Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass HB808 because it's the right thing to do. Apex predators are primary in reef balance. Big rays are destination species. These critters are vital to Hawaii life and culture and should not be killed for reef meat or sport or any human amusement.



**TO:** Honorable Chair Kahele and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land  
March 15, 2019, 1:15 P.M.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Inga Gibson, Policy Consultant, For the Fishes [ponoadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:ponoadvocacy@gmail.com),  
808.922.9910

**RE: STRONG SUPPORT for HB808, Relating to Shark and Ray Protection**

For the Fishes respectfully urges your support of HB808 which would prohibit the capture or killing of sharks or rays in state waters (within 3 nm) except for research purposes, under DLNR issued Special Activity Permits, the use of shark parts/products for native Hawaiian cultural purposes and at the discretion of DLNR for any specific, emergency purposes.

**Why sharks need protection:**

In 2010, Hawaii became the first state in the world to enact a prohibition on shark-finning and the sale of shark-fins or fin products. This measure would complement our existing law, which has now become a global initiative, by again poising Hawaii to be a leader in shark and marine conservation. While current laws prohibit the possession or sale of shark fins or fin products there is no law preventing the intentional capture or killing of sharks.

Most notably, there have been a number of cases in recent years where sharks appear to have been intentionally entangled, injured and harmed and current law does not provide for adequate enforcement or prosecution of such cases. In addition, the Hawaii aquarium industry continues to take baby sharks for the aquarium pet trade, as seen in the below photo. Sharks are not appropriate animals to be kept in home aquaria due to their complex needs and growth rates.

Research from the University of Hawaii has shown that many species of shark, such as tiger and hammerhead, frequent state waters, especially the marine shelf around Maui, and are faced with numerous threats most notably human interactions and pollution.

Finally, sharks are apex predators; when they are removed our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted. In addition, sharks and rays are not a staple human food source as other fish species are. Below is a list of the 40 species of sharks that may be found in Hawaii waters. DLNR notes that it is difficult to distinguish between certain species of shark thus this measure applies to all sharks.

**Why Rays need protection:**

Current law prohibits the take of only Manta Ray species. This measure would extend this protection to all species of rays in state waters (listed below), including Torpedo, Stingray, Devilray and Eagle ray, Manta alfredi (reef mantas) and Mobula tarapacana (sicklefin devilray).

While the trade has not yet hit Hawaii, China and other countries have begun mass harvesting of rays for their gills/gill soup, especially since shark populations are still facing serious decline

and many states and island nations now prohibit selling shark fin products. This measure would prevent any future trade in harvesting Hawaii rays as we saw in 2015 with the mass commercial harvesting of our sea cucumbers by international companies.

Rays are known to be among the slowest marine species to reproduce. For example, new data on manta ray reproduction suggest that they may reproduce even more slowly than previously believed, with a maximum lifetime reproduction potential estimated at only 5 to 15 offspring. Such extremely low reproductive capacity shows that manta and mobula rays are far more vulnerable to exploitation than previously known, and that immediate investment in their conservation is necessary to avoid continued rapid declines (SEE: <http://www.wildaid.org/mantas>)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important marine conservation issue.

Baby shark captured in Hawaii for the aquarium trade:



\*4 additional shark species and all devil rays were included in Appendix II of CITES at the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17, Johannesburg) in 2016. They joined 10 other sharks, rays and sawfishes (elasmobranchs) that had already been included in the CITES Appendices over the past decade.

- [Silky shark \(\*Carcharhinus falciformis\*\)](#)
- [Thresher sharks \(\*Alopias spp.\*\)](#)
- [Devil rays \(\*Mobula spp.\*\)](#)

## **SPECIES LIST FOR HAWAIIAN WATERS**

Common name, Scientific name, IUCN status worldwide

(DD=data deficient; LC=least concern; NT=near threatened; VU=Vulnerable; EN=Endangered)

### **SHARKS**

#### **Order Orectolobiformes**

##### **Family Rhincodontidae**

Whale shark, *Rhincodon typus*, VU

#### **Order Carcharhiniformes**

##### **Family Scyliorhinidae**

Sponge-headed cat shark, *Apristurus spongiceps*, DD

##### **Family Pseudotriakidae**

False cat shark, *Pseudotriakis microdon*, DD

##### **Family Carcharhinidae**

Bignose shark, *Carcharhinus altimus*, DD

Gray reef shark, *Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*, NT

Silky shark, *Carcharhinus falciformes*, NT  
Galapagos shark, *Carcharhinus galapagensis*, NT  
Blacktip shark, *Carcharhinus limbatus*, NT  
Oceanic whitetip, *Carcharhinus longimanus*, VU  
Blacktip reef shark, *Carcharhinus melanopterus*, NT  
Sandbar shark, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*, VU  
Tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, NT  
Blue shark, *Prionace glauca*, NT  
Whitetip reef shark, *Triaenodon obesus*, NT

**Family Sphyrnidae**

Scalloped hammerhead, *Sphyrna lewini*, EN  
Smooth hammerhead, *Sphyrna zygaena*, VU

**Order Lamniformes**

**Family Odontaspidae**

Smalltooth sand tiger shark, *Odontaspis ferox*, VU  
Bigeye sand tiger shark, *Odontaspis noronhai*, DD

**Family Pseudocarchariidae**

Crocodile shark, *Pseudocarcharias kamoharai*, NT

**Family Megachasmidae**

Megamouth shark, *Megachasma pelagios*, DD

**Family Alopiidae**

Pelagic thresher shark, *Alopias pelagicus*, VU  
Bigeye thresher shark, *Alopias superciliosus*, VU

**Family Lamnidae**

White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, VU  
Short-finned mako, *Isurus oxyrinchus*, VU  
Longfin mako, *Isurus paucus*, VU

**Order Hexanchiformes**

**Family Hexanchidae**

Frilled shark, *Chlamydoselachus anguineus*, NT  
Bluntnose sixgill shark, *Hexanchus griseus*, NT

**Order Squaliformes**

**Family Echinorhinidae**

Prickly shark, *Echinorhinus cookei*, NT

**Family Dalatiidae**

Combtooth dogfish, *Centroscyllium nigrum*, DD  
Kitefin shark, *Dalatias licha*, NT  
Blurred smooth lantern shark, *Etmopterus bigelowi*, LC  
Blackbelly lantern shark, *Etmopterus lucifer*, LC  
Smooth lantern shark, *Etmopterus pusillus*, LC  
Hawaiian lantern shark, *Etmopterus villosus*, LC  
Pygmy shark, *Euprotomicrus bispinatus*, LC  
Cookiecutter shark, *Isistius brasiliensis*, LC  
Viper dogfish, *Trigonognathus kabeyai*, DD  
Velvet dogfish, *Scymnodon squamulosus*, DD

**Family Centrophoridae**

Mosaic gulper shark, *Centrophorus tessellatus*, DD  
Gulper shark, *Centrophorus granulosus*, VU

**Family Squalidae**

Shortspine spurdog shark, *Squalus mitsukurii*, DD

**RAYS**

**Order Torpediniformes**

**Family Torpedinidae**

Torpedo ray, *Torpedo* sp., DD or LC, depending on species

**Order Myliobatiformes**

**Family Plesiobatidae**

Giant stingaree, *Plesiobatis daviesi*, LC

**Family Hexatrygonidae**

Sixgill stingray, *Hexatrygon bickelli*, LC

Longnosed deepwater ray, *Hexatrygon longirostra*, IUCN uncertain whether separate species

**Family Dasyatidae**

Diamond stingray, *Dasyatis dipterura*, DD

Brown stingray, *Dasyatis lata*, LC

Pelagic stingray, *Pteroplatytrygon violacea*, LC

**Family Myliobatidae**

Spotted eagle ray, *Aetobatus narinari*, NT

**Family Mobulidae**

Manta ray, *Manta birostris*, VU

Spinetail devil ray, *Mobula japanica*, NT

**CHIMAERAS**

**Order Chimaeriformes**

**Family Chimeridae**

Purple chimaera, *Hydrolagus purpureus*, DD

**Family Rhinochimaeridae**

Longnosed chimaera, *Rhinochimaera pacifica*, LC

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 5:44:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Bishop	Testifying for Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	No

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Friday, March 15, 2019 at 1:15 p.m. in Conference Room 229

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB808 HD1: RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly supports this bill. Sharks and rays are more vulnerable than most other fish species. They are long-living and slow-growing, start reproducing at an advanced age, and produce relatively few offspring per year. If the food chain is disrupted by a decline in the shark population, it affects the entire reef system. Protection for sharks and rays ultimately means healthier, more resilient oceans and reefs that are better able to withstand other pressures on the ocean ecosystem from climate change and pollution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB808 HD1.

Please pass HB808 HD1. Mahalo!

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies  
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205  
Kane'ohe, HI 96744  
(808) 247-7942  
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director  
e-mail [Ken\\_Conklin@yahoo.com](mailto:Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com)  
Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

For hearing Friday, March 15, 2019

Re: HB 808, HD 1

RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION.

Prohibits, establishes criminal penalties, and establishes administrative fines for any person who knowingly captures, takes, possesses, abuses, entangles, or kills any shark within state marine waters. Expands the existing protection for rays within state marine waters. Provides certain exemptions. (HB808 HD1)

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION, UNLESS THE BILL IS AMENDED TO ENSURE RACIAL EQUALITY IN THE PERMISSIVE EXEMPTIONS



This bill provides good reasons why sharks and rays should be protected. The bill provides severe penalties for anyone who captures, kills, or takes a shark or ray within state waters.

The problem with this bill is that it contains language strongly implying that exceptions should be made only for members of one particular racial group. But those exceptions should not be based on race. The exceptions should be for the exercise of traditional or customary cultural or religious practices which were done by some native Hawaiians prior to 1778 but which are now done by some Hawaii residents of many races and cultures. The exceptions should be defined by cultural or religious practices regardless of the race of today's Hawaii residents who engage in those practices.

There are four places in this bill where the language should be amended to make the exceptions culture-based or religion-based rather than race-based.

Page 1, lines 16-17 should be amended to say "... valued figures in certain cultures or religions and are economically important ..."

Page 2 line 7 should be amended to say "their value to specific cultural or religious practices;"

Page 5, section 2(f) lines 5-7 should be reworded to say "Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the exercise of traditional and customary cultural or religious practices engaged in by some native Hawaiians prior to 1778 which now are engaged in by Hawaii residents of various races, as protected by article XII, section 7, of the Hawaii State Constitution."

Page 7, section 3(f) should be reworded to say "Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the exercise of traditional and customary cultural or religious practices engaged in by some native Hawaiians prior to 1778 which now are engaged in by Hawaii residents of various

racess, as protected by article XII, section 7, of the Hawaii State Constitution."

The point of these amendments is that the exceptions should include all people regardless of race who are exercising practices which were traditionally and customarily engaged in by the native Hawaiians who lived in that ahupua'a prior to 1778.

Let me illustrate with an example. We know that in ancient times native Hawaiians, who were the entirety of the population in Hawaii, had the right to gather food and building materials from anywhere in the land controlled by their ali'i or konohiki, and also had the right to cross any land for the purpose of going to the ocean. Such rights were preserved after the Mahele, when royal patent deeds were awarded to create private ownership of land — but the gathering rights and shoreline access rights were preserved for the tenants (residents) of each ahupua'a. Those rights were race-neutral; i.e., every person (kanaka) who was a tenant (hoa'aina) had those rights regardless of race. Although such rights for hunting and fishing and gathering were probably not exercised very often by wealthy foreigners, there was no prohibition against them. The words "kanaka" and "hoa'aina" were race-neutral words not limited to people with native blood.

Today the laws of Hawaii recognize that all residents (hoa'aina), regardless of race, have the right to cross public lands as well as undeveloped or even partially developed private land to go to the beach. This right survives from ancient times right up to the present, for all residents regardless of race.

There are many residents of Hawaii whose heritage is from various Pacific island nations such as Samoa, Tonga, Marshall Islands who engage in Polynesian or Micronesian cultural practices, and should be allowed to continue doing so, even if they have no Hawaiian native ancestry. Likewise there are thousands of residents of Hawaii of Asian

or Caucasian ancestry, with no Hawaiian native blood, who participate actively in hula halaus, for example, where their kumu hula might expect them to make their own sharkskin drums or sharktooth martial weapons.

So if this committee wishes to make an exception, then the exception should NOT be for people on account of their race, but rather should be for the traditional and customary activities formerly engaged in by native Hawaiians before 1778 but which are now engaged in by residents of all races. If you are unwilling to allow the exceptions for cultural activities regardless of race, then I believe the U.S. Constitution, 14th Amendment Equal Protection clause, requires you to entirely delete any exceptions based on culture or religion.

There is no good reason to make the exemption racial. The exemption should be based on preservation of historic skills or ongoing cultural or religious uses, regardless of race. Examples of acceptable circumstances for automatic exemption would include harvesting sharkskin for making a drum, or harvesting shark teeth to make an ornament for personal adornment or a replica of an ancient weapon for use in museum displays or school lessons.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 3:49:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 808 HD1. This bill outlaws the intentional killing, capture, abuse, or entanglement of sharks and rays in state marine waters. Sharks and rays are culturally significant species that keep our ocean ecosystems in balance and healthy. These important species deserve our protection.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 1:23:59 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 7:55:49 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Milisen	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Sharks are an important part of both Hawaii's ecosystem and its culture. Yet the Main Hawaiian Islands have some of the lowest densities in predatory fishes out of anywhere that NOAA surveys. They are not considered an important game fish, they do not represent a significant portion of anyone's diet, I would like to see them given some protection so their populations can breathe.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 4:02:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 808 HD1. This bill outlaws the intentional killing, capture, abuse, or entanglement of sharks and rays in state marine waters. Sharks and rays are culturally significant species that keep our ocean ecosystems in balance and healthy. These important species deserve our protection.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 4:15:53 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Reeser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 808 HD1. This bill outlaws the intentional killing, capture, abuse, or entanglement of sharks and rays in state marine waters. Sharks and rays are culturally significant species that keep our ocean ecosystems in balance and healthy. These important species deserve our protection.



**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 4:24:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Wilcox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to protect the ocean and its inhabitants.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 4:42:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sandra Fujita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB808 HD1.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 5:02:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 808 HD1. This bill outlaws the intentional killing, capture, abuse, or entanglement of sharks and rays in state marine waters. Sharks and rays are culturally significant species that keep our ocean ecosystems in balance and healthy. These important species deserve our protection.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 5:08:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 7:09:13 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Garland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 808 HD1. This bill outlaws the intentional killing, capture, abuse, or entanglement of sharks and rays in state marine waters. Sharks and rays are culturally significant species that keep our ocean ecosystems in balance and healthy. These important species deserve our protection.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 7:38:33 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Enomoto	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

We need to keep these species in the ocean for future generations. They are worth "more" living in the ocean to our economy than dead. The argument for the capture of these species for cultural practices needs to be carefully managed as once these implements are made are they then sold to non Hawaiians? To collectors for profit? Again, as aumakua, I would say they provide more cultural significance "alive" than made into an implement.

If one just looks at the dismal situation of shoreline fishing it is clear that we have depleted a once thriving resource. We need to think along the lines of 100 years and not till the next election cycle.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 9:39:09 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacquelyn Grace	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to protect our sharks, Ray's, as well as our oceans!!

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 9:46:28 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
preston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislative Committees,

Please help us pass SB489 and HB808

Sharks and rays are extremely important to ocean ecosystems. As ocean predators near the top of the food chain, sharks keep the ecosystem balanced, regulate populations of other marine life, and ensure healthy fish stock and reefs. Sharks and rays are more vulnerable than most other fish species. They are long-lived and slow-growing, start reproducing at an advanced age, and produce relatively few offspring per year. If the food chain is disrupted by a decline in the shark population, it affects the entire ocean ecosystem, known as a trophic cascade. Protection for sharks and rays ultimately means healthier, more resilient oceans and reefs that are better able to withstand other pressures on the ocean ecosystem from climate change and pollution.

Sharks and rays not only play important ecological roles but are also valued figures in Hawaiian culture and are important economically to ocean recreation industries and to tourism in Hawaii. Sharks or manā• are regarded in high honor as Hawaiian ‘aumakua or family guardians and ancestors. These figures are deeply ingrained in Hawaiian culture and are known to provide protection for native Hawaiians. To defend and seek to spend time with these animals is a cultural right in Hawaii.

**Support for Ecological Importance**

Ecosystem models predict that the removal of sharks can result in complex community changes, including trophic cascades, mesopredator release, and consequent declines in some commercial fish and cascading changes in some coastal ecosystems (Ferretti et. al 2010). Additional research indicates that the removal of shark and rays may alter size, structure and population parameters in response to changes in species abundance (Stevens et. al 2000).

In the context of ecosystem-level changes specific to Hawaii, a study published in 2000 examined the potential long-term impacts of the removal of sharks with the use of a dynamic model ECOSIM that predicts changes in biomasses, yields, and consumption



for each group through time. They found that when tiger sharks were removed from the model a total and rapid crash in the abundance of tuna and jacks, and an increase in bottom fishes occurred due to increases in seabird populations which compete with tunas and jacks for food and where no longer subject to top-down control by tiger sharks (Stevens et. al 2000). While ecological relationships are very complex and difficult to simulate this study highlights the potential for unforeseen and intended consequences when sharks are removed.

Further evidence for the ecological importance of sharks can be found when the density, size, and biomass of reef fishes in northwestern Hawaiian islands a large, remote, and lightly fished area, and the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI), an urbanized, heavily fished area. The study by Friedlander & DeMartini in 2002 revealed dramatic differences between the two ecosystems, as grand mean fish standing stock in the NWHI was more than 260% greater than in the MHI, more than 54% of the total fish biomass in the NWHI consisted of apex predators, (primarily sharks and jacks) whereas this trophic level accounted for less than 3% of the fish biomass in the MHI. The study concluded these differences represent both near-extirpation of apex predators and heavy exploitation of lower trophic levels in the MHI compared to the largely unfished NWHI (Friedlander & DeMartini 2002).

A 2008 publication by the DLNR-DAR of Hawaii found that Oahu's reefs have around 1/10th the biomass of apex predators (Willaims et. al 2008), indicating that anthropogenic pressures through the main Hawaiian islands has dramatically reduced populations of sharks and rays that are particularly susceptible to over-exploitation due to life history characteristics including slow growth, late attainment of sexual maturity, long life spans, low fecundity (Stevens et. al 2000).

A study by the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (Dale et al. 2011) also provides support for the importance of apex predators and their influence on the healthy of the ecosystem In which they state “ there is growing evidence that removal of top predators from marine ecosystems may trigger trophic cascades resulting in phase shifts [2, 6, 16–19]. In coral reef ecosystems, these shifts appear to favor algal-dominated reefs populated by small planktivorous fishes and echinoderms, at the expense of reef-building scleractinian corals. Collectively these studies indicate that effective conservation of top level predators is important for coral reef ecosystem health” and concluding with “Removal of top predators would theoretically lead to large-scale trophic cascades suggesting ecosystem processes may be most impacted by predators through indirect effects of predation. ”

Based on the scientific studies cited above there is a very clear argument for protecting sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters for their ecological, cultural, and intrinsic value. The long-term ecological implications of the removal of apex predators are difficult to document, but when it comes to conserving such a vital component of our marine ecosystems the precautionary approach should be taken to ensure healthy populations of these animals persist for future generations. Ecological relationships are extremely

complex and difficult to generalize across 40 different species of shark found in Hawaii, but it would be unwise to assume these predators with a history of over 400million years in the ocean have no structural impact on the world around them.

The benefits of maintaining viable populations greatly outweigh any value that would be gained by killing these species. Sharks have very little functional protection here in Hawaii, and with shark populations dropping rapidly around the world the time for action is now.

I support SB489 and HB808 and I hope you will, too.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Preston Ramos

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 9:49:59 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andreas Mielenhausen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays have very long gestation and cannot afford any type of fishing or predatory actions. They need to be protected by the government.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 10:02:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill in full as sharks play an integral part of our ecosystem and due to dwindling numbers need to have legislation in place to protect a forever decreasing population.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 2:15:17 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Megan Manlowe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please save our sharks and rays!!

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 3:20:46 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ralf Schreiner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 5:36:53 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittany Keiper	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays are an important part of our ecosystem and without a major increase in protection against fishing and unlawful killing of these animals they will become extinct so quickly. It is imperative that we protect these animals not just for the ocean ecosystem but for humans as well. I am in support of this bill.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 7:51:04 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Humans are decimating marine life with overfishing and pollution. This is an excellent way to help two critical species in the marine ecosystem.



**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 10:07:44 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kevin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 8:24:50 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Water Inspired	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislative Committee,

Please help us pass HB808.

Sharks and rays are extremely important to ocean ecosystems. As ocean predators near the top of the food chain, sharks keep the ecosystem balanced, regulate populations of other marine life, and ensure healthy fish stock and reefs. Sharks and rays are more vulnerable than most other fish species. They are long-lived and slow-growing, start reproducing at an advanced age, and produce relatively few offspring per year. If the food chain is disrupted by a decline in the shark population, it affects the entire ocean ecosystem, known as a trophic cascade. Protection for sharks and rays ultimately means healthier, more resilient oceans and reefs that are better able to withstand other pressures on the ocean ecosystem from climate change and pollution.

Ecosystem models predict that the removal of sharks can result in complex community changes, including trophic cascades, mesopredator release, and consequent declines in some commercial fish and cascading changes in some coastal ecosystems (Ferretti et. al 2010). Additional research indicates that the removal of shark and rays may alter size, structure and population parameters in response to changes in species abundance (Stevens et. al 2000).

In the context of ecosystem-level changes specific to Hawaii, a study published in 2000 examined the potential long-term impacts of the removal of sharks with the use of a dynamic model ECOSIM that predicts changes in biomasses, yields, and consumption for each group through time. They found that when tiger sharks were removed from the model a total and rapid crash in the abundance of tuna and jacks, and an increase in bottom fishes occurred due to increases in seabird populations which compete with tunas and jacks for food and where no longer subject to top-down control by tiger sharks (Stevens et. al 2000). While ecological relationships are very complex and difficult to simulate this study highlights the potential for unforeseen and intended consequences when sharks are removed.

Sharks and rays not only play important ecological roles but are also valued figures in Hawaiian culture and are important economically to ocean recreation industries and to tourism in Hawaii. Sharks or manā are regarded in high honor as Hawaiian 'aumakua or family guardians and ancestors. These figures are deeply ingrained in Hawaiian culture and are known to provide protection for native Hawaiians. To defend and seek to spend time with these animals is a cultural right in Hawaii.

**The benefits of maintaining viable populations greatly outweigh any value that would be gained by killing these species.** Sharks have very little functional protection here in Hawaii, and with shark populations dropping rapidly around the world the time for action is now.

I support HB808 and I hope you will, too.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Citation:

D. R. Stevens, J & Bonfil, Ramón & Dulvy, Nicholas & A. Walker, P. (2000). The effects of fishing on sharks, rays, and chimaeras (Chondrichthyans), and the implications for marine ecosystems. *Ices Journal of Marine Science - ICES J MAR SCI*. 57. 476-494. 10.1006/jmsc.2000.0724.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 8:26:18 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
One Ocean Conservation	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Aloha Legislative Committee,

Please help us pass HB808. Sharks and rays are extremely important to ocean ecosystems. As ocean predators near the top of the food chain, sharks keep the ecosystem balanced, regulate populations of other marine life, and ensure healthy fish stock and reefs. Sharks and rays are more vulnerable than most other fish species. They are long-lived and slow-growing, start reproducing at an advanced age, and produce relatively few offspring per year. If the food chain is disrupted by a decline in the shark population, it affects the entire ocean ecosystem, known as a trophic cascade. Protection for sharks and rays ultimately means healthier, more resilient oceans and reefs that are better able to withstand other pressures on the ocean ecosystem from climate change and pollution.

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Further evidence for the ecological importance of sharks can be found when the density, size, and biomass of reef fishes in northwestern Hawaiian islands a large, remote, and lightly fished area, and the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI), an urbanized, heavily fished area. The study by Friedlander & DeMartini in 2002 revealed dramatic differences between the two ecosystems, as grand mean fish standing stock in the NWHI was more than 260% greater than in the MHI, more than 54% of the total fish biomass in the NWHI consisted of apex predators, (primarily sharks and jacks) whereas this trophic level accounted for less than 3% of the fish biomass in the MHI. The study concluded these differences represent both near-extirpation of apex predators and heavy exploitation of lower trophic levels in the MHI compared to the largely unfished NWHI (Friedlander & DeMartini 2002).

A 2008 publication by the DLNR-DAR of Hawaii found that Oahu's reefs have around 1/10th the biomass of apex predators (Willaims et. al 2008), indicating that

anthropogenic pressures through the main Hawaiian islands has dramatically reduced populations of sharks and rays that are particularly susceptible to over-exploitation due to life history characteristics including slow growth, late attainment of sexual maturity, long life spans, low fecundity (Stevens et. al 2000).

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Based on the scientific studies cited above there is a very clear argument for protecting sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters for their ecological, cultural, and intrinsic value. The long-term ecological implications of the removal of apex predators are difficult to document, but when it comes to conserving such a vital component of our marine ecosystems the precautionary approach should be taken to ensure healthy populations of these animals persist for future generations. Ecological relationships are extremely complex and difficult to generalize across 40 different species of shark found in Hawaii, but it would be unwise to assume these predators with a history of over 400million years in the ocean have no structural impact on the world around them.

The benefits of maintaining viable populations greatly outweigh any value that would be gained by killing these species. Sharks have very little functional protection here in Hawaii, and with shark populations dropping rapidly around the world the time for action is now.

I support SB489 and HB808 and I hope you will, too.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sources:

Jonathan J. Dale, Carl G. Meyer, and Christian E. Clark, “The Ecology of Coral Reef Top Predators in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument,” *Journal of Marine Biology*, vol. 2011, Article ID 725602, 14 pages, 2011.  
<https://doi.org/10.1155/2011/725602>.

Ferretti, F. , Worm, B. , Britten, G. L., Heithaus, M. R. and Lotze, H. K. (2010), Patterns and ecosystem consequences of shark declines in the ocean. *Ecology Letters*, 13: 1055-1071. doi:[10.1111/j.1461-0248.2010.01489.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1461-0248.2010.01489.x)

Friedlander, Alan & DeMartini, EE. (2002). Contrasts in density, size, and biomass of reef fishes between the northwestern and the main Hawaiian islands: The effects of fishing down apex predators. Marine Ecology-progress Series - MAR ECOL-PROGR SER. 230. 253-264. 10.3354/meps230253.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 9:33:41 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michaela Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 10:27:27 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kimberly Roth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am not a resident of Hawaii but am a frequent visitor who really enjoys Hawaii's beautiful marine environment. I strongly support protection for sharks and rays. I believe the Bahamas have had similar protections in place for quite some time and our whole family made a special trip there primarily to see its great hammerheads. Protecting these species will be both good for the environment and good for tourism in Hawaii.

Best regards



**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 8:07:56 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erik McClunie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 11:44:10 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Ferriera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB808. Sharks are vital for the ecosystem and monitoring many of our food sources in in Hawaii. There is zero reason for the purposeful killing of sharks.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 11:47:52 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alexandria Barkman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays are crucial to healthy ecosystems.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 10:57:40 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mackenna Cady	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill. I sincerely ask you to pass HB 808 HD1 because sharks and rays are incredibly important for the health of the ocean (and therefore the livelihood of human beings), and they desperately need better protection worldwide. I would love to see Hawaii be a LEADER in shark protection initiatives, so we can help preserve the planet for the future generations and current keiki. This bill could help us do just that.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Mackenna Cady

**From:** [Alan Campbell](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 10:12:12 PM

---

I fully support this bill to protect sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters.

This is an opportunity for Hawaii to show leadership in the protection of the apex predators that are so vital in ensuring the health of our oceans.

The benefits will extend beyond the oceanic ecosystem to the Hawaiian Islands in the shape of increased tourism and public awareness.

Thank you.

Alan

**From:** [Alexis Araw](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT for HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 11:23:49 PM

---

Aloha,

I am writing in SUPPORT for HB808 and SB489 to ban the purposeful killing of rays and sharks. As a Captain for One Ocean Diving, I not only rely on sharks for my livelihood, but I like everyone, depend on sharks for a healthy ocean ecosystem. They play a major role in keeping fish stocks healthy by feeding on the dead dying and weak. I want to live in a world that supports sharks and our future and protects them from unwarranted harm. We NEED sharks! Please help protect them for generations to come.

Thank you for your time,

Alexis Araw

**From:** [Anja Miller](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 11:12:50 AM

---

To whom it may concern,

Although i live in Europe I am very interested in helping to save sharks and rays all over the World. Both species are essential to our marine eco system and we don't know of the long term consequences if their numbers are shrinking even more. Also in the Case of sharks we need to work on their Image shown in the media as they are not the monsters that we see in movies. For me the Hawaiian Gouvernement is very progressive. For example you were the ones that implemented the ban of sunscreens that are not reef save. It was in the News all over the world, which shows me that you have the power to set trends and make the whole world think about it. You showed everyone that even a small State in probably the middle of nowhere can make a difference. So i am using my small voice and speak up for those animals that don't have one.

Please think about a law to protect these beautiful creatures as our oceans need them.

Aloha from Germany,  
Anja Miller

--

Diese Nachricht wurde von meinem Android Mobiltelefon mit [WEB.DE](#) Mail gesendet.

**From:** [Carissa Cabrera](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 10:52:51 AM

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Aloha,

Please kokua and consider the mano as the sentient beings they are that need protection. Decreasing shark populations are causing cascading effects on our reefs and as a marine biologist and ocean conservationist, I see no reason why sharks shouldn't be protected. Unless there is a reason to kill sharks (illegally for their fins) in Hawaiian waters, why wouldn't you protect them? Research permitting will be still accessible. Please do what is right for the aina.

Best  
Carissa

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Cecilia Torres](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY In Support of HB808.  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 11:41:36 AM

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From ECUADOR, South America | support HB808

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**Cecilia Torres H.**  
*COLIBRÍ - AGENCIA DIGITAL*  
*DIRECTORA MINGAS POR EL MAR*

**From:** [Christina Sbrocchi](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 3:09:46 AM

---

Dear Committee,

Protecting sharks is extremely important for the health of our oceans and planet, as well as economic health associated with travel and beach/water attractions. Please vote in favor of conservation for sharks and the marine and planetary ecosystems.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Christina Sbrocchi, M.Ed

**From:** [Christel Fritz](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support HB808 & SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 7:58:52 AM

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Please support HB808 & SB489 to protect sharks & the vital role they play in our ocean ecosystems! The health of our seas determine the health of our planet! Saving sharks is necessary - it is imperative that the ongoing slaughter of these creatures be stopped! Now!!!

Christel Schultz

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Rodriguez, Desire](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB808 and SB849  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 5:53:22 AM

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Hello,

My name is Desire Rodriguez and I am currently going to school to study general biology. I am working towards my end goal of becoming a marine biologist and more specifically a shark specialist. I am horrified by the abuse and neglect that sharks receive around the world and for this instance Hawaii. The ignorance and lack of knowledge from the public is allowing for sharks to slowly become a dying race. Anyone with any hint of knowledge would know sharks are essential for the environment of oceans. Something must be done to save them! I give my whole heart in supporting the protection of rays and sharks and will continue to dedicate myself to them.

Best,  
Desire Rodriguez

**From:** [Desmond Lai](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 10:59:21 AM

---

Aloha,

I'm writing to you in support of bill HB808. Sharks and rays deserve the protection especially in pristine water like Hawaii. Not only do they play a huge role in balancing the ecosystem that Hawaii rely on a lot for tourism, they are also worth more alive themselves than dead. Protecting them is only the right thing to do and there shouldn't even be a bill in the first place. I SUPPORT HB808 and so should you if you care about the health being of the ocean and Hawaii in general.

Mahalo

Desmond

**From:** [Donald R Gerbig](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT HB 594, HD 1  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 8:39:35 AM

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Aloha Chair Kahele, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I strongly support HB 594, HD 1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (LNR141) for the design and construction of one exploratory well to meet future potable water requirements for diversified agriculture.

Farmers are liable for greater access to potable water for irrigation and crop washing because of the new Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) rules, but it is difficult for the Board of Water Supply (BWS) to maintain its agricultural discount, which is essentially a subsidy by BWS' commercial and residential customers. Assisting BWS with the cost of locating and developing new water resources will help relieve the competition for water and will allow BWS to maintain lower rates for farmers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.

Mahalo!

**From:** [Gabriella Rodriguez](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB808 & SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 5:28:56 AM

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I support the protection of sharks and rays.

Our earth has been these animals' home for far longer than it has been a home for humans.

Thank you for doing everything you can to ensure the safety and healthy future for sharks and rays.

**From:** [hortenzia@dundjerski.ch](mailto:hortenzia@dundjerski.ch)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 9:19:59 PM

---

Kind Regards,

Hortenzia Dundjerski

Von meinem Huawei-Mobiltelefon gesendet



**From:** [Jade Anamy](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 9:05:47 PM

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[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Janice Márquez de la Plata Molina](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 11:08:24 AM

---

I support HB808

The animals do not know about borders. I am from Ecuador and 2 days ago a law agreement was signed to protect the eagle rays. I think they should protect themselves around the world with sharks!

**From:** [Jen Durst](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 11:49:03 PM

---

I support these bills,

Jennifer Durst

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jeremy Matthew](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:20:39 AM

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Sent from Jeremy's iPhone

**From:** [Jessica Zajac](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 1:22:53 AM

---

Aloha Legislative Committees,

Please help us pass SB489 and HB808

Sharks and rays are extremely important to ocean ecosystems. As ocean predators near the top of the food chain, sharks keep the ecosystem balanced, regulate populations of other marine life, and ensure healthy fish stock and reefs. Sharks and rays are more vulnerable than most other fish species. They are long-lived and slow-growing, start reproducing at an advanced age, and produce relatively few offspring per year. If the food chain is disrupted by a decline in the shark population, it affects the entire ocean ecosystem, known as a trophic cascade. Protection for sharks and rays ultimately means healthier, more resilient oceans and reefs that are better able to withstand other pressures on the ocean ecosystem from climate change and pollution.

Sharks and rays not only play important ecological roles but are also valued figures in Hawaiian culture and are important economically to ocean recreation industries and to tourism in Hawaii. Sharks or *mano* are regarded in high honor as Hawaiian *‘aumakua* or family guardians and ancestors. These figures are deeply ingrained in Hawaiian culture and are known to provide protection for native Hawaiians. To defend and seek to spend time with these animals is a cultural right in Hawaii.

### **Support for Ecological Importance**

Ecosystem models predict that the removal of sharks can result in complex community changes, including trophic cascades, mesopredator release, and consequent declines in some commercial fish and cascading changes in some coastal ecosystems (Ferretti et. al 2010). Additional research indicates that the removal of shark and rays may alter size, structure and population parameters in response to changes in species abundance (Stevens et. al 2000).

In the context of ecosystem-level changes specific to Hawaii, a study published in 2000 examined the potential long-term impacts of the removal of sharks with the use of a dynamic model ECOSIM that predicts changes in biomasses, yields, and consumption for each group through time. They found that when tiger sharks were removed from the model a total and rapid crash in the abundance of tuna and jacks, and an increase in bottom fishes occurred due to increases in seabird populations which compete with tunas and jacks for food and where no longer subject to top-down control by tiger sharks (Stevens et. al 2000). While ecological relationships are very complex and difficult to simulate this study highlights the potential for unforeseen and intended consequences when sharks are removed.

Further evidence for the ecological importance of sharks can be found when the density, size, and biomass of reef fishes in northwestern Hawaiian islands a large, remote, and lightly fished area, and the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI), an urbanized, heavily fished area. The study by Friedlander & DeMartini in 2002 revealed dramatic differences between the two ecosystems, as grand mean fish standing stock in the NWHI was more than 260% greater than in the MHI,

more than 54% of the total fish biomass in the NWHI consisted of apex predators, (primarily sharks and jacks) whereas this trophic level accounted for less than 3% of the fish biomass in the MHI. The study concluded these differences represent both near-extirpation of apex predators and heavy exploitation of lower trophic levels in the MHI compared to the largely unfished NWHI (Friedlander & DeMartini 2002).

A 2008 publication by the DLNR-DAR of Hawaii found that Oahu's reefs have around 1/10th the biomass of apex predators (Willaims et. al 2008), indicating that anthropogenic pressures through the main Hawaiian islands has dramatically reduced populations of sharks and rays that are particularly susceptible to over-exploitation due to life history characteristics including slow growth, late attainment of sexual maturity, long life spans, low fecundity (Stevens et. al 2000).

A study by the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (Dale et al. 2011) also provides support for the importance of apex predators and their influence on the healthy of the ecosystem In which they state “ there is growing evidence that removal of top predators from marine ecosystems may trigger trophic cascades resulting in phase shifts [2, 6, 16–19]. In coral reef ecosystems, these shifts appear to favor algal-dominated reefs populated by small planktivorous fishes and echinoderms, at the expense of reef-building scleractinian corals. Collectively these studies indicate that effective conservation of top level predators is important for coral reef ecosystem health” and concluding with “Removal of top predators would theoretically lead to large-scale trophic cascades suggesting ecosystem processes may be most impacted by predators through indirect effects of predation. ”

Based on the scientific studies cited above there is a very clear argument for protecting sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters for their ecological, cultural, and intrinsic value. The long-term ecological implications of the removal of apex predators are difficult to document, but when it comes to conserving such a vital component of our marine ecosystems the precautionary approach should be taken to ensure healthy populations of these animals persist for future generations. Ecological relationships are extremely complex and difficult to generalize across 40 different species of shark found in Hawaii, but it would be unwise to assume these predators with a history of over 400million years in the ocean have no structural impact on the world around them.

The benefits of maintaining viable populations greatly outweigh any value that would be gained by killing these species. Sharks have very little functional protection here in Hawaii, and with shark populations dropping rapidly around the world the time for action is now.

I support SB489 and HB808 and I hope you will, too.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Jessica Zajac

Sources:

Jonathan J. Dale, Carl G. Meyer, and Christian E. Clark, “The Ecology of Coral Reef Top Predators in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument,” *Journal of Marine Biology*, vol. 2011, Article ID 725602, 14 pages, 2011. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2011/725602>.

Ferretti, F. , Worm, B. , Britten, G. L., Heithaus, M. R. and Lotze, H. K. (2010), Patterns and ecosystem consequences of shark declines in the ocean. *Ecology Letters*, 13: 1055-1071.

doi:[10.1111/j.1461-0248.2010.01489.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1461-0248.2010.01489.x)

Friedlander, Alan & DeMartini, EE. (2002). Contrasts in density, size, and biomass of reef fishes between the northwestern and the main Hawaiian islands: The effects of fishing down apex predators. *Marine Ecology-progress Series - MAR ECOL-PROGR SER.* 230. 253-264. 10.3354/meps230253.

D. R. Stevens, J & Bonfil, Ramón & Dulvy, Nicholas & A. Walker, P. (2000). The effects of fishing on sharks, rays, and chimaeras (Chondrichthyans), and the implications for marine ecosystems. *Ices Journal of Marine Science - ICES J MAR SCI.* 57. 476-494. 10.1006/jmsc.2000.0724.

**From:** [Karen Andrade](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 4:56:53 AM

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Good Afternoon,

I am a very passionate shark lover and the fact that people are mistreating sharks and rays angers me. I wish to stand by Ocean Ramsey, and I want to save these beautiful creatures. I am here signing the petition to save sharks and rays.

Thank you for your time,

Karen A.



**From:** [Kayleigh Burns](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** In support HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 10:43:47 AM

---

Aloha Committee Members,

I strongly support HB808 in granting more protection for sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters. It is very important for Hawaii to take the lead in conservation for the rest of the US just as we did being the first to ban shark finning. Here in Hawaii it's even more important because we have a cultural value of sharks in Hawaiian tradition as gods and family guardians.

From 2000-2010 Sharks around the world have been decimated at a rate of about 100 million sharks per year (Worm & Gruber 2013). With only about 3% of the world's ocean as a marine protected area (MPA) there exists few safe havens for these animals around the globe (Department of State Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs 2016).

Sharks and rays are especially vulnerable to exploitation due to slow growth rate, late attainment of sexual maturity, long life spans, & low fecundity (Steves et al 2000)

As apex predators, sharks are at the top of the food chain, therefore maintaining the balance of the ecosystem by regulating the abundance of marine life in lower trophic levels while acting as the immune system of our oceans by picking off the weak, sick and overpopulated keeping fish stocks healthy.

Additional research indicates that the removal of shark and rays may alter size, structure and population parameters in response to changes in species abundance (Stevens et. al 2000).

Sharks are a clear sign of a healthy reef and marine ecosystem due to their predatory status. It is our responsibility as a community to conserve our natural world for generations to come and those around the globe to enjoy.

Please set a positive example for the US and ban the purposeful killing of sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters and pass HB808.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kayleigh Nicole Burns

**From:** [Lester Jonathan](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:08:19 AM

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Protect Sharks!!! Support

Jonathan Lester

Sent from my iPhone

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Le informazioni contenute in questo messaggio di posta elettronica e relativi allegati sono riservate e confidenziali e ne è vietata la diffusione in qualunque modo eseguita. Qualora Lei non fosse la persona a cui il presente messaggio è destinato, La invitiamo ad eliminarlo e a darcene gentile comunicazione.

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**From:** [maddison brown](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPORT FOR HB808 SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 6:23:34 AM

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Save the sharks and rays!!!

**From:** [malin.borg](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 7:47:25 AM

---

Dear Mr/Mrs,

Please support the sharks survival. They are highly important for the nature wildlife and the ecosystem. It shall be forbidden to kill sharks.

Best regards,  
Malin

Skickat från min iPhone

**From:** [María Gracia González](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 10:47:10 AM

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I support HB808

**From:** [miles.madison](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB808 and BB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 10:05:31 AM

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I support these and hope my voice counts.

**From:** [OCEAN RAMSEY](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** IN SUPPORT OF HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 9:56:36 AM

---

Aloha,

Please support and help pass this bill.

Growing up in Hawaii I have personally seen more and more sharks killed by fishermen. Last year a production company even proposed to film the killing of a Tiger shark which we stopped through social media pressure but we need laws to keep people from coming to Hawaii and harming the sharks or killing rays. Scalloped hammerheads are an endangered species but the pups are often killed by near shore fisherman.

Ecologically sharks are critical to marine ecosystems which is proven throughout the world in many scientific papers.

I realize there is some opposition from local researchers who just don't want the extra paperwork that might be required for them to be transparent about their invasive tagging practices. I would encourage the committee to look through their attempts to stop this bill and realize that ultimately this law would protect even their subjects of study and the community deserves to know who is doing what in relation to mano are being treated. Culturally mano are respected as aumakua and should be protected in law in order to respect and preserve traditional Hawaiian culture.

Aloha,

Ocean Ramsey

Marine biologist and shark researcher

-One Ocean Research & Conservation

Water Inspired Conservation Group

Save the sea turtles international

**From:** [Ocean Reseach](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** In support of HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 6:49:40 PM

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For cultural, Ecological, and environmental concerns sharks need to be protected.  
I am traveling in a remote area, sorry this is not longer, please reference prior testimony

Aloha,  
Ocean Ramsey



**From:** [Paul Frieze](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** HB808 support testimony (Illegal Fisheries & Toxic factors)  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 1:23:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [mercury\\_PR.pdf](#)  
[07.Liver\\_Results.PDF](#)  
[Keehi Hammerheads notes.pdf](#)  
[Kyoshin Maru case.pdf](#)

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Aloha Senators,

Please accept my support for HB 808. Besides the obvious environmental & cultural reasons please consider the following.

1. People that consume sharks are unaware the species are full of mercury, lead, arsenic and other neurotoxins which are not regulated by FDA or USDA. State of Hawaii should take responsibility to protect and educate their consumers. The World Health Organization recommends the safe level of mercury to be 0.5ppm (parts per million,) while sharks consistently contain much higher levels. (1.0 - 4.0 ppm) \*references attached
2. Hawaii is far behind in the IUU (Illegal Unreported, Unregulated) Fisheries battle. Last year despite Hawaii's Shark Finning Law passing in 2010, 75+ unborn Hammerhead pups were dumped at Keehi Lagoon. Based on evidence it appears the came from pregnant sharks. This past November, Indonesian "mules" trafficking 962 shark fins (off the Japanese flagged vessel Kyoshin Maru) were arrested at the airport.

In 2017, the commercial long-liner 'Pacific Paradise' ran up the reef at Kaimana beach in Waikiki. Their permit allows for a crew of 6. However the vessel was not fishing & had picked up 20 foreigners (from America Samoa) to staff Hawaii's Long-line industry. 19 other Hawaii Longline boats made similar runs to America Samoa since mid 2016 which is human trafficking. (<http://globalfishingwatch.org/map/workspace/udw-v2-f9080272-267a-4978-b88e-6efdd9241ca7>) That equates to 400 undocumented workers staffing Hawaii's fishing industry. Since they don't officially exist, they are often used to support illegal fisheries. Hawaii's resources become laundered for overseas beneficiaries. The black market demand for shark product, i.e. fins, squalene (liver oil), cartilage, gills, etc. are a main driver for these additional crimes along with the non transparent & mislabeled meat tainted with neurotoxins.

The 'Keehi Dumping' and airport bust (reports attached) expose Hawaii as a notorious transnational IUU fishery hub. Since 2012, the Japanese Kyoshin Marus' have pulled up 12-15 miles outside Honolulu Harbor 21 times. (<https://youtu.be/DfsYtbQQYOW>.) Besides shark finning, Kyoshin Marus' are illegally transshipping and violating human rights which Hawaii caters to.

Passing this law not only respects the environment and culture, it is a progressive step in cleaning up Hawaii's fishery and helps mitigate IUU issues. Feel free to contact me if additional clarifications are needed.

Mahalo,  
Paul Frieze  
The IUU Files  
Bali Sharks Rescue Center





Contact: Lucia Ticoalu  
+62 85857320471  
[balisharks@gmail.com](mailto:balisharks@gmail.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **SHARK MEAT FROM INDONESIA - CONTAMINATION WARNING!**

**Unregulated, tainted shark product being exported and consumed Worldwide.**

DENPASAR, INDONESIA, Feb. 2, 2017 – Shark tissues tested in Indonesia reveal mercury levels above regulatory limits of 0.5 / 1.0 ppm – parts per million. Since inception in 2012, the Seafood Inspection Laboratory test Tuna, Marlin, Groupers, and Mahi-Mahi, and other popular restaurant fish. They have confirmed the toxicity levels are more common each year which is consistent with the increasing ocean pollution. Until last year, the lab had yet to test shark meat due to specialized processing for the additional body parts such as fins, liver oil, skin, jaw bone and teeth. The meats eventually are put back into the distribution channel mixing with fish and ending up in the marketplace.

While fins may fetch up to 2.5 million rupiah (approx. \$200 usd) per set, the meat sells for as little as 25k (approx. \$2 usd) rupiah per kg. Indonesia considers shark meat to be lower class cuisine and used in street foods like sate, fish cakes and meat balls for soup. Skins are deep fried to make chips called kerupuk.

This seems to be a case of the old saying “One man's garbage is another man's treasure...”, fillets are exported to neighboring Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and other Countries. The meat is often breaded and deep fried into fish burgers or Fish 'n' Chips, known in Australia as flake. Consumers are unaware of the type of fish being sold and ultimately ingested. In November 2014, Shark documentary filmmaker Madison Stewart tested a store bought fillet labelled as Tiger Shark. The test results were positive at 1.0 ppm mercury and 39.0 ppm arsenic level, but the DNA test revealed it was a sevengill shark.

Bali Sharks Rescue Center, partnered with Green School Bali, to collect and tested a sample of shark from the local Jimbaran Fish Market. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, the Seafood Inspection Laboratory tested their first shark sample, which resulted in a 1.368 ppm mercury. A Bronze Whaler, commonly used for flake, resulted in a level of 1.829 ppm on January 20, 2017 and recently on January 26, 2017 a bull shark tested at 2.431 ppm mercury level. All samples in Bali were collected after the sharks had been processed and sent for consumption. Both Indonesia's and Australia's maximum level for mercury consumption is 1.0 ppm for any fish species.

more



### **Seafood Inspection Laboratory Mercury PPM results**

Jan. 27, 2017	Bull Sharks	2.018 parts per million
Jan. 26, 2017	Bull Sharks	2.431 parts per million
Jan. 20, 2017	Bronze Whaler	1.829 parts per million
May 2, 2016	Bull Shark	1.368 parts per million

Shark fins also continue being exported to Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, and Singapore markets. On Dec. 15, 2014, Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) rose their maximum safe level of mercury in predator fish to 1.0 ppm up from 0.5 ppm in all other fish. AVA reasoned most fish consumed in Singapore are smaller non-predator fish. All sharks species are categorized as predatory while Singapore continues to be a top per capita shark fin consumer. Fillets are distributed to supermarkets and restaurants, and entire sharks can be found in wet markets avoiding any regulatory measures. Shark Rescue Center's Founder points out, "While logically larger sharks contain higher levels of toxicity, common sense tells us as seas become more polluted, fish contamination will outpace regulatory level increases." Seafood Inspection Laboratory confirmed this trend looking over their five years of testing.

Bali Sharks Rescue Center will continue to work with Education Institutions and Government Regulators in efforts to keep consumers updated with health and fishery issues.

###

Please contact [balisharks@gmail.com](mailto:balisharks@gmail.com) for supporting media document requests.

## REPORT OF CHEMICAL TEST

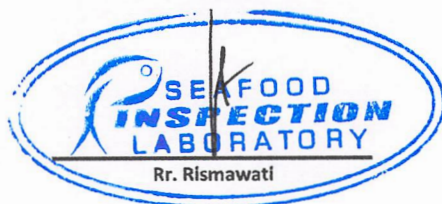
No : 17237219410  
 Applicant : BALI SHARKS  
 JL. TUKAD PUNGGAWA  
 Date Received : February 14, 2017  
 Date of Testing : February 16, 2017  
 Sample Submitted by : Applicant

Method reference		: Mercury Analysis System "Mercury/MA-2000 - Japan, (NIC-600 -2009 -05)		
Code of Sample	Kind of Sample	PDC	Sample Group	Mercury (ppm)
				Result
1	Bull Shark Meat	-	Individual Test	2.780
2	Bull Shark Liver			3.564

Remarks: The test results valid for samples received at the laboratory  
 ppm : part per million

\*\*\*\*\* End of Report \*\*\*\*\*

Bali, 16 January 2017  
 Respectfully issued by PT. Seafood Inspection Laboratory  
 Head of Laboratory





Indonesian near shore shark poaching comparisons  
for 6/26/18 Hammerhead dump incident @ Keehi Lagoon



1. Gill net damage on Black Tip Reef pup in Bali.
2. Dermal pigmentation darkening shark's skin from sun.
3. Neonate's (newborn) fins stretched out and firm from swimming.



© SoulWater Productions

1. Unborn Hammerheads gutted from pregnant mother in Lombok.
2. Shark skin pale w/out any darkened pigmentation from sun.
3. Skin is pink from rubbing inside womb.
4. Undeveloped fins are soft and wrinkled.

“Aging the Pups”  
The Keehi Hammerheads - page 2



1. Appear to be (endangered) Scalloped Hammerhead species.
2. Fins wrinkled and not yet stretched out from swimming.
3. Pale skin with no coloration from the sun.
4. Sharks have “3rd party” dried blood indicating some sort of processing.





“Open Umbilical Scars”  
The Keehi Hammerheads - page 3



1. Fresh umbilical scars appears visible in several stills taken from news video.
2. Disfiguration is consistent with “scrunched” sharks removed from a womb.



\*scars naturally close within a few days of birth and do not remain open





Gill net possibility?  
The Keehi Hammerheads - page 5



There was no visible gill net damage on any of the sharks.  
No other net debris (seaweed, trash, by-catch) found at location.  
Pups take 20 to 40 minutes each to be born.  
75 pups would equate to taking at least 25 hours to be born.  
Hammerheads birth an average 20 to 30 pups.  
Based on volume 75 pups most likely came from 2-4 different mothers.  
Multiple litters or not, all sharks would have stayed grouped together after birth.  
If this was the case, it has scientific ramifications based on shark behavior.





## Commercial Fisheries probability? The Keehi Hammerheads - page 6



The dumping was species specific.

The evidence is consistent of unborn neonates.

The Hammerheads were reported at 7:30 am in morning.

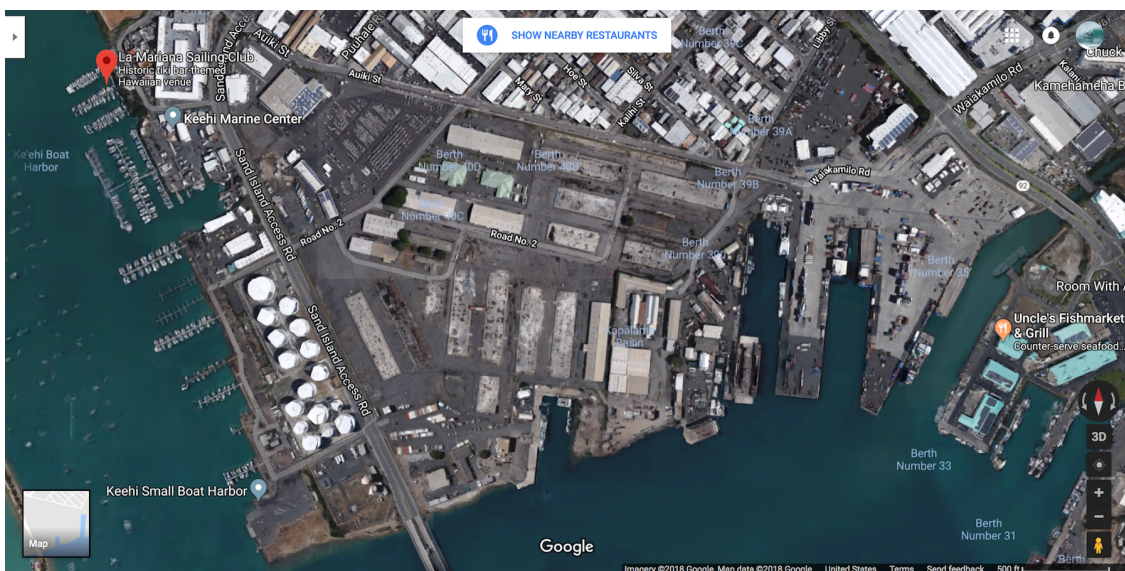
Commercial boats arrive & unload overnight night for the fish auction.

Convenient access from fish auction & longliner's pier too La Mariana.

They were dumped against a street parking piling.

Adult Hammerhead fins are worth \$2,000 or more on black market.

Hawaii offers no financial opportunity for dead pups such as pet food &/or fertilizer markets.



### Longliner activity over night Monday, June 25th

Although there may be CCTV in the area, Hawaii's Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data would show boats that came in overnight Monday, June 25, 2018. Alternatively using Automatic Identification System (AIS) boats can also be tracked. Using GlobalFishingWatch.org it does appear several boats came in around the time of the incident. Some of the boats include;

Captain J3  
Captain Kevin  
Jennifer Lynn  
Lady Alice  
Miss Julie  
Captain Millions I (sample tracking below)

#### **CAPT. MILLIONS I**

**Owner Name:** CAPT T LLC

**Owner Address:**

1019 MCCANDLESS LANE APT. B, HONOLULU, HI 96817, USA

**Master Name:** HOANG, JEFFERSON

**Master Nationality:** United States of America

**Reg Port:** Honolulu

**Built in Country:** United States of America

**Built in Year:** 1989

**Crew:** 6

**Length:** 78.40

**Length Units:** Feet

**Length Type:** REGISTERED

**Moulded Depth:** 10.30

**Moulded Depth Units:** Feet

**Beam:** 24.10

**Beam Units:** Feet

**Tonnage:** 132.00

**Tonnage Type:** GRT

**Engine Power:** 660

**Power Units:** HP

**Freezer Types:** Ice

**Flag:** United States of America

**Registration Number:** 944388

**IRCS:** WDH3493

**Vessel Type:** Tuna longliner

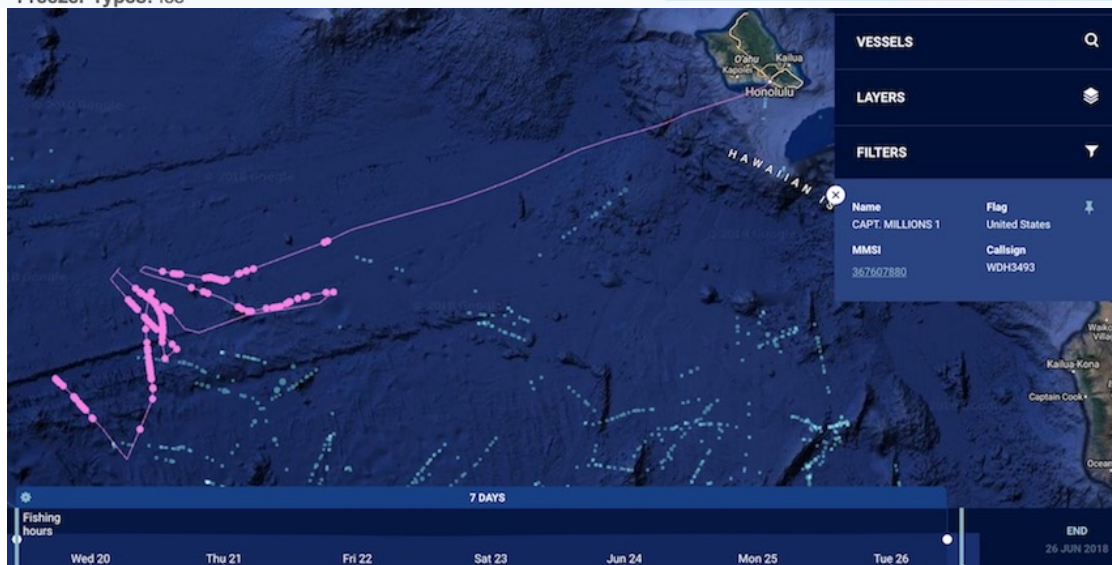
**WIN:** WDH3493

**IMO-LR:** 8847844

**VID:** 5700

**Submitted by CCM:** United States of America

**Attachments:**



.zip file available

## The KYOSHIN MARUs' and Shark Fin Smuggling Bust in Hawaii (The IUU Files)

On November 8, 2018, Hawaii News Now reported that Indonesian nationals had been apprehended at Honolulu's International Airport with suitcases full of shark fins. The US Fish & Wild Services filed a federal complaint as it violates the Hawaii [§ 188-40.7] Shark fins prohibited law along with the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1538(c)(1) and 1538(g) which makes it illegal to possess, trade, sell, ship, export, etc. any endangered species.

### Agents bust alleged shark fin smuggling ring at Honolulu's airport

The men reportedly had the shark fins in their luggage



The men, with their suitcases boarded the bus to the federal jail Thursday afternoon (Kawano, Lynn)

(link = <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2018/11/09/agents-bust-alleged-shark-fin-smuggling-ring-honolulu-airport/>)

According to court documents, 18 fishermen from the Japanese vessel **KYOSHIN MARU #20** were picked up by a water taxi and taken to Pier 36 in Honolulu Harbor. The 18 foreigners were then taken to HNL airport for an ANA (All Nippon Airways) flight back to Indonesia through Japan. However, 10 of the nationals were arrested with 962 shark fins in "their" luggage. Fins from the Oceanic Whitetip Shark, a protected species were found in the batch.

Case 1:18-mj-01253-RLP Document 2 Filed 11/09/18 Page 1 of 13 PageID #: 6

ORIGINAL

FILED IN THE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF HAWAII  
NOV 9 2018  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
U.S. DISTRICT CLERK

KENJI M. PRICE #10523  
United States Attorney  
District of Hawaii

KENNETH M. SORENSON  
Chief, Criminal Division

MARC A. WALLENSTEIN #10456  
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Facsimile: (808) 541-2958  
E-Mail: Marc.Wallenstein@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) MAG. NO. 18-01253 RLP  
Plaintiff, )  
 ) CRIMINAL COMPLAINT  
vs. )  
 )  
ABDIRAHMAN (01), )  
DIAN ANDRIYANTO (02), )  
YULI HARYANTO (03), )  
TAUFIK HIDAYAT (04), )  
BUDI MULYANA (05), )  
DENI NURYANTO (06), )  
PURWANTO (07), )  
MAMAN RUKMANA (08), )  
TEGUH IMAM SANTOSO (09), and )  
IBNU FAHMI ZAKI (10), )





### **Shimizu Port**

The **KYOSHIN MARU #20** originated from, then after fishing and making its Hawaii drop, headed back to Japan's Shimizu Port. The port is 154 kilometers away from Narita Airport (NRT) which is All Nippon Airway's connecting hub from Honolulu. It makes no sense for a vessel headed to Tokyo to drop foreign workers off in Hawaii spending \$1000 per ticket to fly them back into Tokyo without some sort of massive benefit or cover up. Perhaps exploiting Hawaii's relaxed enforcement towards smuggling contraband and human rights labor laws are less risk than bringing foreign Indonesian workers back to fly out from Japan.



### **Smugglers or Mules?**

Foreign crews are usually contracted through agents and not by the deep water fishing vessels they are placed on. They do not speak English. Furthermore fishermen do not have suitcases when they are out at sea and would not be able to book flights much less be able to pay for airfare.

- Who gave them new suitcases upon arrival in Hawaii to place fins in?
- Who booked & paid for their ANA tickets?
- Where was the final destination for the luggage and travelers?
- Who arranged their water taxi pick up & airport transfer?
- Who hired the Attorney that represented one of the fisherman?

Based on how organized the incident was and past pattern of consistency, it appears to be an ongoing crime with domestic involvement.

### **Kyoshin Marus' (21 times since 2012)**

According to Global Fishing Watch's platform we can cross reference the **KYOSHIN MARU #1, #20, and #31** past movements. Since 2012, the boats have pulled up 10-15 miles off Honolulu Hawaii 21 times avoiding Harbor entry.

(Video link = <https://youtu.be/DfsYtbOQYOW>)



### **WCPFC Finning & Transshipping violations**

The Western Central Pacific Fishery Commission (WCPFC) considers it a violation to have over a 5% weight of shark fin too carcass ratio. The act of transporting fish product from a Japanese fishing vessel to another boat, even a water taxi, in USA's Economic Zone (EEZ) is considered a transshipping violation.



#### **SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

6-10 December 2010

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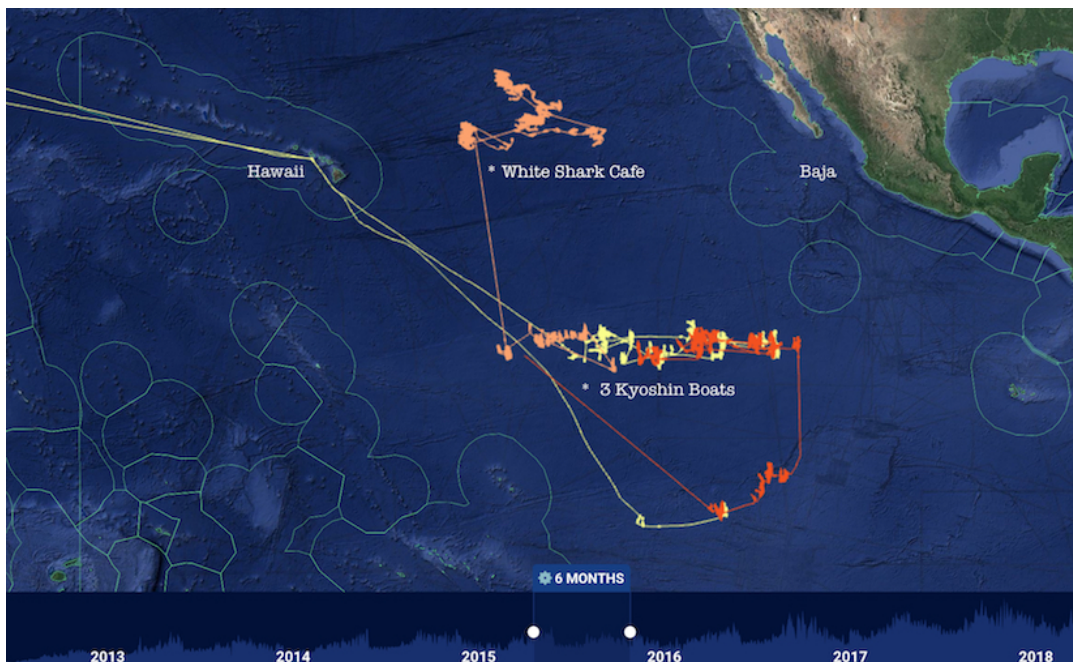
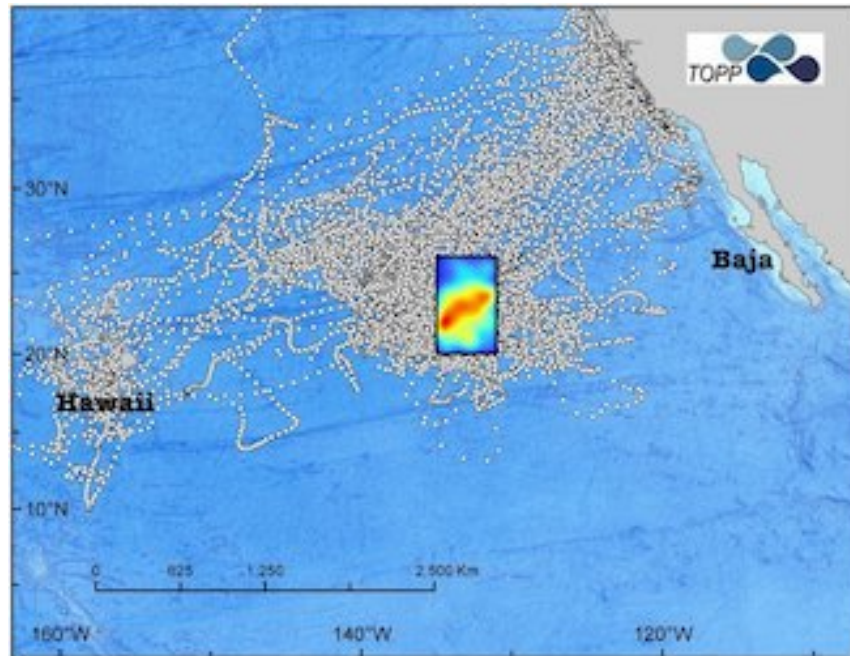
#### **CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE FOR SHARKS**

---

7. CCMs shall require their vessels to have on board fins that total no more than 5% of the weight of sharks on board up to the first point of landing. CCMs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures. CCMs may alternatively require that their vessels land sharks with fins attached to the carcass or that fins not be landed without the corresponding carcass.

## **Poaching the White Shark Cafe** (Targeting sharks - part 1)

According to Schmidt Ocean Institute and Stanford University's Center for Ocean Solutions, an area of research between Hawaii and Baja, California is considered "the White Shark Cafe." It is named after a Great White Shark aggregation site being studied in hopes of turning it into a UNESCO World Heritage Site.





### **No Dorsal or Caudal fins. (Targeting sharks - part 2)**

Based on evidence provided it appears “the smugglers” were not in possession of premium higher valued fins such as the larger Dorsal & Caudal (tail) fins. They most likely remained on the **KYOSHIN MARU** headed back to Japan.



### **Other Potential Relevant Law Infractions**

Based on evidence it would appear the Indonesians were mules for a much larger fishery syndicate consistent with other Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported (IUU) violations. These violations include human rights issues such as modern day slavery laws and international fishery violations such as transshipping violations.

- **Shark Finning Prohibition Act** On December 21, 2000, United States Congress enacted the law making it unlawful for vessels to catch & cut off shark fins with in United States Exclusive Economic Zone. (EEZ)
- **U.S. Code, Title 22, Chapter 78 - Trafficking Victims Protection** Protecting against transnational crime including forced labor and involves significant violations of labor, public health, and human rights standards worldwide.
- **The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act** (TVPA) combats trafficking in persons, especially into the sex trade, slavery, and involuntary servitude.

### **\*\*December 14, 2018 Court Filing update**

[http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2018/12/14/indonesian-fishermen-caught-trying-smuggle-shark-fins-hawaii-get-off-with-fine/?fbclid=IwAR2\\_VoHITzD6Ah-2Cc1OKJoJxV-H9zctKDK4bf-hv5AtNwVr2r9HJw2JRd4](http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2018/12/14/indonesian-fishermen-caught-trying-smuggle-shark-fins-hawaii-get-off-with-fine/?fbclid=IwAR2_VoHITzD6Ah-2Cc1OKJoJxV-H9zctKDK4bf-hv5AtNwVr2r9HJw2JRd4)

### **\*December 11, 2018 Court Filing update**

<https://www.kitv.com/story/39627208/five-japanese-nationals-charged-with-smuggling-nearly-1000-shark-fins-in-and-out-of-hawaii>

*Not much has changed...*

### **Hawaii's Shark Fin smuggling History**

Although its difficult to detect when shark finning originated within Hawaii, the first documented case gets interesting. In what was anticipated as a huge possible drug bust, became Hawaii's first exposure to a massive shark fin trade. Carroll Cox, a former U.S. Fish & Wildlife Special Agent recounts the 1999 incident,

*“an illegal shipment of 11 tons of shark fin with the commercial long line fishing vessel ‘Two Star.’ The ‘Two Star’ met the foreign vessel ‘M/T Unam Poseiden’ on 1/15/99, 0800 hours, at N17.55 / West L59.35, approximately 271 miles from Honolulu, where the fins were ‘transshipped.’ The shark fins were spread over the pier because they were accidentally exposed to sea water during the transfer. The owners informed officials that they were sorting the tainted fins and would be dumping them. Subsequently the entire load was placed on the tractor trailer and shipped out of the United States.”*

Prior to that, in April 1998 National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) documents American fishing vessels in Hawaii, transshipping thousands of pounds of shark fin from foreign fishing vessels. As explained by a shipping agent at the time,

*“A supply vessel roams the world's oceans, refueling and resupplying fishing boats. The fishing boats sell their shark fins to the supply vessel, where they are accumulated until they rendezvous with an American fishing vessel approximately 200 miles from Hawaii, on the high seas. The American vessel transports the fins to Honolulu where they are placed in containers and shipped out.”*



©Carroll Cox/Envirowatch

**From:** [Pedro Tolentin](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 9:41:23 PM

---

Aloha,

I am emailing in support of both bills - HB808 and SB489. Sharks need our help and protection from fisheries all around the globe. Sharks need protection from us; we've seen the data, showing 2 million sharks being killed every year. How can we just stand idle? They play a crucial role in our battle to save the ocean and the world (climate change). In protecting sharks, we not only help sharks but also ourselves. I plead to you that you pass these bills protecting sharks and rays.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Pedro Tolentin

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sabrina Real](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 11:51:29 PM

---

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to ask that you strongly consider passing HB808 and SB489 to protect innocent marine animals for the betterment of life now and the lives of succeeding generations. The acts of killing and torturing these sacred and vital beings is not only inhumane but also unnecessary. Any person who knowingly partakes in capturing, taking, possessing, abusing, or entangling sharks and rays deserves to face large fines to the extent of jail time. It is time that America makes more advancements in caring for our ecosystem.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Sabrina Real

**From:** [slavka.sopkova@gmail.com](mailto:slavka.sopkova@gmail.com)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 9:08:55 AM

---

To Whom It May Concern,

I support HB 808 and SB489.

As a Natural Scientist, I believe every living being/creature matters and we cannot take them for granted. Even though my country does not have an ocean, I have a hope for a thriving marine ecosystem. Please help to protect and save SHARKS and RAYS.

Thank you  
From Europe With Regards  
Slavka Sopkova PhD.  
(Hydrogeologist)

**From:** [Sergio Govea](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 4:58:07 AM

---

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Stephanie Rocha](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 10:19:16 PM

---

I support the bills HB808 and SB489

-Stephanie

**From:** [Sunshine Eckstrom](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 3:55:12 AM

---

I'm writing in support of HB808 and SB489. We must protect sharks and rays and protect our ocean ecosystems.

Thank you,

Sunshine Eckstrom, DVM



**From:** [Tracie Sugo](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY In Support of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 11:06:48 AM

---

I support HB808 because sharks and rays are vital!

Thank you  
Tracie Sugo

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Tucker Hull](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 9:58:57 PM

---

Whatup committee,

Sharks are tight and if you don't think so then you are not.

Sincerely,  
Tuck

**From:** [Valérie Flamant](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Supporting Measures HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 10:31:05 PM

---

Dear Madam,  
Dear Sir,

I'm writing you from Switzerland and strongly support the protection of sharks and rays in Hawaii. And the ecosystem which surround them.

This is a legacy to protect absolutely for the future of the oceans and children.

It is unbelievable that human beings have to fight for such things: protecting sharks, fishes and some rare species.

Hope this testimony will have touch your hearts and your minds,

Best regards,

Valérie Houet-Dutrige  
Chemin de la Bergerie, 14  
1936 Verbier

T: +41 79 210 34 08

**From:** [Daniela Hill](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:03:08 PM

---

"I support HB808"  
Best Regards from Ecuador  
Daniela Hill

**From:** [vrib](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 11:52:46 AM

---

STOP NOW!!!

Enviado do meu smartphone Samsung Galaxy.

**From:** [tentousandchariots](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR SB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:13:24 PM

---

Sharks are necessary for a healthy ecosystem. Since they are slow to mature and reproduce, AND reproduce in small numbers, they are not a sustainable source of food, etc. Killing them is therefore unethical. Purposefully catching them should be made a crime, especially in the only state (Hawaii!) where sharks are culturally significant and historically accounted for as guides and 'aumakua.

Erika Carlson & Family

Sent from my MetroPCS 4G LTE Android Device

Sent from my MetroPCS 4G LTE Android Device

**From:** [Jayde Couzyn](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 11:52:02 AM

---

Sending this email in support of the above legislation.

JAYDE COUZYNN  
6501 Red Hook Plaza  
Suite 201  
St Thomas  
USVI  
00802

Sharks deserve protection

**From:** [Kristan Kelly Williams](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY In Support of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:02:41 PM

---

Dear Sen. Schatz and Sen. Hirono,

I am writing in regards to Bill HB808, to protect the sharks and rays from being fished around your homes. I have been a huge shark advocate since my 9 year old daughter taught me how important they are for our ecosystem. Without sharks, our oceans will get sick. Without oceans, we will die.

I understand there are some people who would like to have the freedom to fish whatever they want and it may be for family traditions, sport or even food. What I like about this bill is it would bring awareness to the importance of sharks. If you are saying they need to be protected, then others will respect sharks and rays too. They would ask questions, research and learn for themselves why they are important.

I am writing this so we can give our oceans a chance, so people can have a chance to survive and find other sources of sport or food.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing what the outcome is.

Respectfully,  
Kristan

Kristan Kelly Williams  
SOPTV  
Student Showcase Producer  
541-326-9755

Kristan Kelly Images  
[www.kkellyimages.com](http://www.kkellyimages.com)



**From:** [Maja Szrajber](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:20:28 PM

---

I support shark protection and whole ocean ecosystem which is on the verge of collapse, because of us, humans. We can live thanks to ocean and still everyday we destroy it, we destroy our home, that has to stop!

Protect sharks, please.  
Greetings,  
Maja, from Germany

**From:** [Natalie Held](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:14:24 PM

---

I support HB808 to protect sharks and rays. Sharks and rays are a vital part of our ocean's ecosystem and without apex predators such as these incredible creatures, our oceans would continue to struggle even more than they already do with climate change. What scares me the most about losing these animals by not protecting them is the fact they have been around for hundreds of thousands of years. Think about this for a second. These creatures have been around since dinosaurs. Sharks and rays were able to survive whatever caused the dinosaurs extinction. If that scares you, living in a planet without them because of human selfishness should scare you more. Please vote to protect these miraculous and important creatures.

Best,

Natalie

**From:** [Tony Rodriguez](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:17:47 PM

---

In regards to house bill 808

Hello this is Anthony Rodriguez. I wish to protect all forms of life. I am from Florida, I have watched all the incredible sea life shrink down because of offshore oil drilling, of oil spills, and over fishing ect. And I do not wish that to happen anymore we all have to take a stand. And hopefully with this bill we can be able to push other bills in place. I fully support the shark protection act. Thank you and have a wonderful day

**From:** [Tracy Izor](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 11:53:30 AM

---

Aloha,

I am writing to submit my full support of bill HB808 relating to sharks and rays.

There is so much information I could give you to support this message, though I'm sure you have gathered a lot of that information already.

Sharks have such a big role, especially here in Hawai'i, and need our protection. I urge you to continue passing this bill until it is law so we can see our oceans thrive in the future.

Thank you very much for your time and I look forward to seeing you all tomorrow at the testimony.

Aloha,

Tracy Izor

**From:** [Zoe Williams](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY in Support of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:06:58 PM

---

Dear Sen. Schatz and Sen. Hirono,

My name is Zoë Williams and I am a shark and ocean conservationist. It is so important to me that bill HB 808 is passed to protect the sharks and rays. It is my dream to be a marine biologist and study sharks, rays, the ocean and everything in the ocean.

I am only 9 years old and I will be visiting Hawaii in April to swim with sharks. I want to learn more about sharks and someday go to college there. If the population of sharks goes down, more people like me will not come visit, people will not go to school there for marine biology, like I plan to.

I wish I could be there in person to tell you all this, but I live in Oregon. Please protect these important animals from fishing.

Thank you,

Zoë Williams

"Sharks are our Friends"

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 12:47:16 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB808

**From:** [Allison Wallace](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:27:36 PM

---

I implore you to act before it is too late. Not just for the sharks, but by proxy for all of our oceans. What will we tell the future generations when they ask us why we failed to protect their future? What will history say about our action, or lack thereof?

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Barbara Tranjan](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 1:14:27 PM

---

Por favor! Vamos fazer felizes,todos os animais e nos.humanos! Estamos matando todos os seres vivos,todos,TENHO certeza que você ama a vida...e os animais,também....  
Amos fazer um mundo limpo de tanto sangue,não há necessidade de comermos carne,daqui há pouco o universo estará insuportável!♀



**From:** [Cade Cuda](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 1:13:36 PM

---

The killing of sharks and rays must be prohibited. We are killing the top of the food chain, this will have an impact on the rest of the oceans if sharks go extinct. There is no reason to be killing them.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Christa Hennessy](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:50:08 PM

---

Dear Madams or sirs

You don't have to be a marine biologist or oceanographer to understand the importance of sharks. Allowing the cruel, purposed killing of sharks should be banned. The state of Hawaii can set an example for others to follow. Please support this bill.

Yours sincerely  
Christa Hennessy

**From:** [Dana Bjarner](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:41:09 PM

---

I support HB808

Enviado desde mi iPhone

**From:** [emmalouisechambers](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:57:44 PM

---

I support House Bill 808!

Emma Chambers  
France

**From:** [Jaydn Zaggia-Lee](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:39:14 PM

---

I support HB808, Please consider the effects on the eco system!

**From:** [gottagobideo](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:41:07 PM

---

Please stop the killing of sharks and rays. I support stopping the killing of all sharks and rays.

Jason Louis Reilly  
1225 ulupii st  
Kailua hi 96734  
808-829-6348

**From:** [Joanna Romero](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony In Support of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:29:13 PM

---

I support HB808! Please help protect our ocean life. We need sharks in order to maintain our ecosystems. Thank you.

**From:** [Nicole Palenchar](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 1:06:02 PM

---

I support HB808 and you should too! Sharks and rays are both critical parts of a healthy ecosystem, especially in Hawaii. There is no reason humans should be allowed to torture, starve, and murder sharks the way they do. It is absolutely disgusting and these beautiful creatures deserve so much more respect and protection.  
Do what's right. Protect our oceans, from ourselves.



**From:** [Tabytha Towe](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** re: I support bill HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 1:09:15 PM

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Please when you have this next hearing, consider the ocean that Hawaii is fortunate to have that brings people there, and do not let any more sharks or rays be allowed to be brutally killed. As a person who lives outside of Hawaii, I am very upset and wish to travel back more, but I want to know that the government is doing its part to start ending this horrific slaughter.

Sincerely,  
Tabytha Towe from Canada

**From:** [Tobi Jakobi](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** In support of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 12:27:59 PM

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Aloha Legislative Committees,

although I am not sure I qualify as someone from Germany to give a testimony, I kindly ask you to please help pass HB808.

As a recreational Scuba Diver, I am very concerned about the current state of shark populations. Sharks and rays are extremely important to ocean ecosystems. As ocean predators near the top of the food chain, sharks keep the ecosystem balanced, regulate populations of other marine life, and ensure healthy fish stock and reefs. Sharks and rays are more vulnerable than most other fish species. They are long-lived and slow-growing, start reproducing at an advanced age, and produce relatively few offspring per year. If the food chain is disrupted by a decline in the shark population, it affects the entire ocean ecosystem, known as a trophic cascade. Protection for sharks and rays ultimately means healthier, more resilient oceans and reefs that are better able to withstand other pressures on the ocean ecosystem from climate change and pollution.

Sharks are important economically to ocean recreation industries and to tourism in Hawaii since many Scuba Divers – myself included – want to visit Hawaii inter alia because of opportunities to dive with these fascinating creatures. Sharks and rays not only play important ecological roles but I am told that they are also valued figures in Hawaiian culture. To defend and seek to spend time with these animals is a cultural right in Hawaii.

The benefits of maintaining viable populations greatly outweigh any value that would be gained by killing these species. Fellow Scuba Divers from Hawaii tell me that Sharks have very little functional protection in Hawaii. With shark populations dropping rapidly around the world the time for action is now.

I support HB808 and I hope you will, too.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Tobias Jakobi

**LATE**

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 1:45:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
morgan rodgers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill should pass because sharks and rays are necessary for a healthy ocean ecosystem. Shark and ray populations have been decreasing over the years due to human impact. If nothing is done, the effects of this population decline will be detrimental and will not only affect the entire ocean's ecosystem functions, but ultimately ours as well. It is not an option to ignore the damage we have already done, but it is an option to start making strides towards fixing it. Please don't let this bill slip through like others have in the past. This is our chance to change the course of the current destructive path we are on. Thank you.

**LATE**

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 2:33:27 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alexi trotter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 2:54:15 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stefani Specker-Cook	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Hawai'i - one of the extinction capital of the world... we are on the verge of the 6th mass extinction. The islands of Hawaii were once a home to beautiful schools of fish, lively corals, and many other marine animals such as dolphins, whales, turtles, manta rays, and sharks. I arrived to Oahu as a resident 3 years ago. Oahu is continuing to suffer a massive decline in marine biodiversity, rare to no schools of fish, entire reefs dead, and extremely rare findings of larger marine animals such as sharks. The massive decline in shark populations is an issue that must be fought for. Sharks are important to Hawaiian culture that must be kept alive and not destroyed. Sharks regulate the ocean's health, provide us resources, and oxygen we need to breathe. The sequences of over fishing, plastic pollution, bleaching, and species exploitation for our needs is not sustainable. Our world can live on without humans in it, but a world without sharks is a world that will collapse. Our lives depend on sharks to provide us oxygen to breathe, food to live, and an environment to survive. It is vital for this planet to educate others about something that matters, learn to love your surroundings that nature has created for us to explore, enjoy, and protect. Without a blue world, there is no green world. As a student at the University of Hawaii, I know that my peers stand strong on this issue to help protect our home, the islands, and Earth.

Stefani Specker-Cook

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 3:25:12 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jordan ravens	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Having healthy thriving shark populations is crucial to having a healthy ocean and ecosystem and there needs to be serious consequences for people who harm these animals. It is also just plain cruel and inhumane and I fully support HB808 HD1

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 3:34:13 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lauren kristi layman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

I am a long time Hawaii resident and I support this bill, HB808. Sharks and rays are important species in the ecosystem and the help maintain the health of our oceans. Without these species, the health of the ocean is in question and so is Hawaii's ecotourism. Ecotourism plays an incredibly important role in our tourism industry here so taking steps to preserve it will hopefully help ensure a consistent tourism flow in the future. We must be the valoha we wish to see in the world. Thank you.

Kristi Layman

**LATE**

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 3:35:48 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB808. Sharks and rays are keystone species and by protecting them you protect the marine ecosystem, which is responsible for generating so many of our tourism dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn

Kihei



**LATE**

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 4:24:39 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James McCay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong Support and there are REAL issues in Hawaii if bill #808 is not passed!!!

Few know that perhaps when I retire from energy work, I may apply for a position to help enforce these important species protection laws.

MAHALO & Malama Pono!

James McCay

HNL 96815

**LATE**

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 2:46:48 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nadine Lane	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Please see the importance of protecting these animals. There is no reason to purposely kill or harass sharks and rays. I have see dead sharks on the beach that you can tell someone went out of their way to kill just for the "fun"(?) of it all. I also see photos on social media with these animals suffering and it hurts my heart to see this, and knowing there is no justice for these innocent souls. I'm also very disappointed that Hawaii of all places does not already have these animals protected, given the Hawaiian culture. I believe Hawaii needs to stand strong with this bill as the connection between people and the island is absolutely beautiful and that mentality should continue.

Thank you for hearing me.

**LATE**

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 4:32:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 808 HD1. This bill outlaws the intentional killing, capture, abuse, or entanglement of sharks and rays in state marine waters. Sharks and rays are culturally significant species that keep our ocean ecosystems in balance and healthy. These important species deserve our protection.

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 5:34:40 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Nakachi	Individual	Support	Yes

## Comments:

Aloha e Senators, LONG overdue, Time to protect Mano, Hihimanu, Hahalua and other precious marine Ohana as these in HB808 HD1 for future generations. Not time to wait until next year, time to act is now. Look forward to testifying in person on this bill. Mahalo nui, Mike Nakachi

**LATE**

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 7:18:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB808 for the protection of sharks and rays in Hawaii. Sharks are a vital part of Hawaiian culture, provides oxygen for us to breathe, regulates the ocean's health, and increases eco-tourism. We need sharks to have a healthy planet and our future depends on it. I can't imagine a world without sharks among us and not being apart of their enviroment. As a student at the University of Hawaii I know my peers stand strong on this issue for our future generations. Please protect Hawaii and our Earth. Mahalo.

Alexandra Hirst

**LATE**

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 8:08:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Kimberly De Souza, I live in Palolo Valley and I support tighter laws on the killing of sharks and ray and the introduction of better protections.

All over the world sharks and rays are being killed for their fins or due to their bad rep as predators and dangerous animals. We need to put stricter laws into place to prohibit any harm coming to these creatures that are so vital to a healthy ocean ecosystem.

Please vote to protect Hawaii's marine ecosystem by protecting our sharks and rays

**LATE**

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 9:27:23 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaikea Nakachi	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 10:53:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alohi Nakachi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In strong support, this bill is long overdue



**LATE**

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 11:39:29 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 808 HD1. This bill outlaws the intentional killing, capture, abuse, or entanglement of sharks and rays in state marine waters. Sharks and rays are culturally significant species that keep our ocean ecosystems in balance and healthy. These important species deserve our protection.

**LATE**

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 4:50:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katelynn Grundl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and Rays are a vital part of our ocean's ecosystem. They're generally not harmful to the human population and their own populations are dwindling because they aren't protected. Our ocean's need these animals.

**LATE**

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2019 11:05:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keraldyn Flores	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm testifying on behalf of all my sea dog brothers and sisters. Sharks are vital to marine ecosystems all around the world. God created many species designed to achieve one specific task for the rest of their lives. They're such complex and magnificently beautiful animals. They deserve a chance. I've never done "this" before I've never had a voice before -at least for myself- but think about animals. They don't have voices at all. So here I am sitting on a couch in buttceacl middle of New Braunfels, Texas, I'm so far from the swaying beauty of Hawaii. But I'm also really close to what America stands for; justice for all. Even the water folks. Have a great day and thank you.

**From:** [Alli Asbaniah](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 9:14:14 PM

---

I support HB808.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [PITTMAN, WESLEY T](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 6:08:39 PM

---

**LATE**

Protect the sharks and rays!!

Wesley Pittman  
University of South Carolina Class of 2019  
B.S. Biological Sciences | College of Arts and Sciences  
wpittman@email.sc.edu | (803)468-9919

**LATE**

**From:** [Vanessa Larose-Desjardins](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 3:43:13 PM

---

Please stop To do this To sharks and ray or any else creatures. I support HB808

**From:** [Wilson McCourtney](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 3:24:56 PM

---

I support both of these sharks and rays bills!!!

**Wilson McCourtney**

**Baby Blue Film**

**[\(415\) 233 0979](#)**

**[wilson@babybluefilm.com](mailto:wilson@babybluefilm.com)**

**[www.babybluefilm.com](http://www.babybluefilm.com)**

**From:** [Ulu Lehulehu](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB808  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2019 10:32:42 AM

---

I support HB808! Sharks are vital to the health of our ocean ecosystems and therefore the sustainability of Hawaii's economy based on recreation and fisheries, ocean source food sustainability, and Hawaiian cultural knowledge systems.

What is an ocean without sharks? Money cannot buy health and certainly not time lost. Act pono now!

Me ke aloha



**LATE**

**From:** [synnros@gmail.com](mailto:synnros@gmail.com)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 8:09:55 PM

---

I support HB808

Best regards  
Synnøve Røsand

**From:** [Tiffany Bidot](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 4:59:09 PM

---

**LATE**

I support HB808! Sharks are an important species in our oceans and in order to protect our eco system from failing, we need to keep our sharks alive. It is devastating to see shark numbers declining in such short time. We need to save our animals and think about the mammals that will soon be extinct if we don't take Immediate action!

Warmest regards,  
Tiffany

**From:** [Taylor Cunningham](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT for HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 6:47:59 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I'm sure that you have been told in many other testimonies about the incredible importance of sharks to keeping ocean ecosystems healthy but I urge you to consider their economic importance. Sharks act as the "white blood cells" of the ocean by eating the sick, injured, or dying animals and leaving behind a healthy ecosystem. Without sharks our fisheries would be plagued with diseased fish. The fishing industry in Hawaii accounts for a significant portion of the economy. A quarter of the Hawaiian population takes part in fishing activity at least once a year and Hawaii's commercial fishermen have brought up to \$64.3 million in fish in previous years. The Hawaiian fishing industry is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest in the US and without the presence of sharks, it could potentially collapse. Tourism is the largest source of private capital into the Hawaiian Islands and contributes \$1 billion in tax revenue. Ecotourism accounts for a large portion of tourism within Hawaii, much of which involves sharks or coral reef ecosystems. It has been proven that by protecting sharks, overall reef health improves. For example, the protection of sharks in the Bahamas has led to a healthier food chain and increased shark-related ecotourism, earning the title of "Shark Diving capital of the world". The shark diving industry in the Bahamas brings in approximately \$78 million a year to the local economy. The protection of sharks and rays in the Maldives has led to a huge ecotourism business among the islands. In Palau, each living reef shark contributed almost \$2 million to the economy within their lifetime via ecotourism. On the other hand, that same shark would be worth a one-time pay out of a couple hundred dollars if killed by a fisherman in Palau. A LIVING SHARK IS WORTH MORE THAN A DEAD ONE! Even if you ignore all the biological and ecological benefits of the presence of sharks & rays within the Hawaiian reef and ocean ecosystems there is an extremely compelling economic reason to protect sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters. I urge you to pass bill HB808 and join the Maldives, Honduras, and the Bahamas in efforts to prevent the recreational fishing of sharks.

Mahalo,

Taylor Cunningham

**From:** [Tabatha Jara](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 2:40:31 PM

---

I support HB808

Enviado desde mi iPhone

**LATE**

**From:** [Sofya Shnayder](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 6:21:51 PM

---

Killing sharks for their fins needs to stop!

Sent from my iPhone

**LATE**

**From:** [Selvana Stella](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 4:57:18 PM

---

Hi,

I'm emailing to voice my support of Bill SB489.

Shark and rays cruelty is unnecessary and only do bad for the planet and consequently human race in the long run.

Do your research scientifically before it is too late.

Further, shark and rays alive contribute much more to the economy through ecotourism than them dead.

Time to give back and make amend with this planet.

Thank you.

Best regards,  
Selvana Stella

**From:** [Полина Алексеева](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY In Support of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 9:23:16 PM

---

Dear sirs and madams,

Please stop the violence in Hawaii! We have only one planet for life.  
I support HB808.

Kind regards,  
Polina Pivovarova

**LATE**

**From:** [Piers Johnson](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 6:04:19 PM

---

Please prohibit the killing of sharks and rays. These are an essential part of the oceans ecosystem and their slaughter is mindless.

Please show compassion, understanding and intelligence for the greater good of our oceans and world

Thank you for your consideration  
Piers

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Pedro Tolentin](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 4:03:10 PM

---

Aloha,

I am emailing in support of both bills - HB808 and SB489. Sharks need our help and protection from fisheries all around the globe. Sharks need protection from us; we've seen the data, showing 100 million sharks being killed every year. How can we just stand idle? They play a crucial role in our battle to save the ocean and the world (climate change). In protecting sharks, we not only help sharks but also ourselves. I plead to you that you pass these bills protecting sharks and rays.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Pedro Tolentin

Sent from my iPhone

**LATE**

**From:** [Pauline Viguiet](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 9:40:16 PM

---

Hello,

I support these bills to end the fishing of sharks and rays !

This practice can not last more longer, these animals are important in food chain.

We don't have the right to take their lives like that !

They are incredible animals, we don't have a lot of knowledge about these fishes.

This is time to change our way too see animals, they are not objects but humans with feelings and mind like us !

Thank you

Envoyé depuis l'application Mail Orange

**LATE**

**From:** [Nisia Longhi](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 9:04:56 PM

---

Non è possibile che nel 2019 si uccidono ancora squali volontariamente nell'hawaii, è una cosa disgustosa. Sono esseri viventi come lo siamo noi, come si va? Che schifo che fate.

Inviato dal mio dispositivo mobile Huawei

**From:** [Nicole Heye](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 8:04:08 PM

---

**LATE**

Please stand with sharks. They are an important part of our ecosystem but have been stigmatized to only be brutal killers. They need us to have their back. Let's make this big step by supporting this bill.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

**LATE**

**From:** [Michelle King](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 6:47:42 PM

---

Our oceans are dying and it is because of the lack of respect humanity has for the balance in nature. I guess that is what happens when we are no longer a part of a food chain. This has to stop. We know better. We need to do better. A healthy ecosystem requires balance without human interference! Or as little as possible! Now that we have all but destroyed the food chain and natural balance we must do our part to bring nature back to a place for repairing the planet to share with future generations! This starts with one step! Please protect the health of our oceans by protecting the planet's Apex predators!

Please stop the ignorance!

Sincerely

Michelle from Canada

**LATE**

**From:** [Maria Ledoux](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB808  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2019 12:43:01 AM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I do not live in Hawaii, however it is a place on top of my bucket list if I were to be fortunate to ever be able to visit there one day.

I feel passionate about the environment in general and about safeguarding this beautiful planet for many future generations to come.

I wish to give my testimony in favor to pass legislation to protect sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters.

Sharks and rays are extremely important to the ocean ecosystems. As ocean predators near the top of the food chain, sharks keep the ecosystem balanced, regulate populations of other marine life, and ensure healthy fish stock and reefs. If the food line is disrupted by a decline in the shark population, it affects the entire ocean ecosystem, known as a trophic cascade. Protection for sharks and rays ultimately means healthier, more resilient oceans and reefs that are better able to withstand other pressures on the ocean ecosystem from climate change and pollution.

For this reason and many others not stated here above, the benefits of maintaining viable populations greatly outweigh any value gained by killing these species. Sharks have very little functional protection in Hawaii, and with shark populations dropping rapidly around the world it is time for action.

I support the HB808 and I hope you will too.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

Maria Ledoux

From France

Envoyé de mon iPad

**From:** [Maria J.](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 3:01:34 PM

---

**LATE**

I am writing in support of HB808 to increase protection for our sharks and rays. Growing up on the Big Island, I have seen on numerous occasions the blatant disregard for these animals lives by local fisherman. It is fairly routine to see fisherman shoot or toss buoyed trap hooks to sharks and porpoise for the sole purpose of trying to get rid of what they see as ocean "pests". It is time to enforce an educated ocean etiquette in Hawaii and provide protection for these animals.

Sincerely,  
Maria Kaaua

**From:** [Maria Emilia Toral](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 6:38:00 PM

---

**LATE**

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [maría carolina rodriguez](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 5:17:18 PM

---

**LATE**

I support HB808 because i believe sharks have much value that is under appreciated. they're spiritually meaningful especially for the people of hawaii, and they keep our oceans in symbiotic balance. they do not deserve what us humans are putting them through. we can't let sharks be endangered. a shark less ocean is not a future that we should allow. it's not a future that we can afford.

María Carolina Rodríguez

**From:** [Lindsey Edwards](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Protect sharks & rays!  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 6:16:02 PM

---



I support HB808 and you should, too! It is our job to save our planet and the animals in it, not kill and destroy it. Please vote for the bill!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kimberly Kondreck](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 2:45:53 PM

---

**LATE**

I absolutely support this bill! Sharks and rays should be protected as a valuable part of ocean ecosystems and not recklessly killed because people fear them. As an avid scuba diver I've safely spent time in the water with these animals and they are not mindless killers. People need to be educated not allowed to just fish these animals for sport and allow them to die slowly on a beach somewhere.

Please pass this bill and protect these important creatures so that our oceans remain healthy for future generations!

Regards,  
Kimberly  
Sent from my iPhone, please excuse any typos

**LATE**

**From:** [Julio Cueva](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 3:29:45 PM

---

I support the bill, we need the sharks on the sea to have a balance on the species and in the ocean world they are all connected to each other and everyone needs them, the change starts from ourselves, if we do nothing now tomorrow it will be too late and we'll definitely regret it, so let's start today, and now !

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [jill](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 5:29:13 PM

---



Hi ,please do not let sharks die! I am in support of saving sharks and protecting them!!!  
Thank you!!  
Cade

Sent from my iPhone

**LATE**

**From:** [Kate Marriott](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 5:06:41 PM

---

Hello.

I am in favor of the protection of large cartilaginous fish by any means necessary.

Thank you.

**From:** [jules jones](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support HB808  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2019 3:16:11 AM

---



Please do what you can to diminish the useless slaughtering of sharks and rays.  
Their numbers do have limits and we could very possibly wipe them out.  
They play a vital role in the ecology of our seas, and could throw off the balance of biodiversity, which could effect the fishing industry and tourism alike.  
Please pass!  
Thank you.

Jules Jones  
745 Cherico st  
Austin TX 78702

**From:** [Jannette Miller](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB808 & SB489  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2019 1:04:50 AM

---



I support these bills

[Sent from](#) Jannette Miller



**From:** [Jacqueline Pont](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 3:19:24 PM

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Hello,

I support the Bill SB489 to keep sharks alive and in the ocean where they should be so future generations can enjoy and admire them!

Jacqui



**From:** [Greylin High](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 5:38:33 PM

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Please support the ecological system of the ocean.

Thank you,  
Greylin High

**From:** [grace carr](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2019 12:48:13 AM



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I support bill SB489

**From:** [Emma Spatz](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 1:47:18 PM

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**LATE**

There is such a fragile ecological balance in which humans are already tipping the scales towards a less favourable outcome for nature. Sharks are a keystone species and their presence needs to be demanded. Sharks and rays (among so many other animals) should be left alone to live their lives as far from human interference as possible so that ecological systems can flourish. This world belongs to all creatures, and we as humans need to respect their lives and habitat. I support HB808 for the protection of sharks and rays and the consequences for violating such enactments.

Sincerely,

Emma Spatz

**From:** [Emma Erny](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY In Support of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 1:36:42 PM



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I support HB808!!

**From:** [Daniel M. Alty](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 3:49:26 PM

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**LATE**

"I support HB808"

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**LATE**

**From:** [Dana Morley](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 2:58:47 PM

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I support HB808! I support the protection of sharks and rays and all animals that can't speak up for themselves! Protection of all animals is necessary for the well being of our planet and our future!

Dana Morley

**From:** [Cherine Baumgartner](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of hb808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 3:03:24 PM

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Dear Sir or Madam

As a marine biologist I strongly support HB808.

We need sharks and rays not only for a healthy marine ecosystem, but also for a healthy planet.

Moreover, sharks have a very important role in Hawaiian culture and we need to respect this!

Kind regards

Chérine Baumgartner



**From:** [charlotte dunne](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 3:44:32 PM

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I support house bill 808!!!!  
Animals have rights too ... make the earth great again

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Carolina Gonzalez](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 6:27:42 PM

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I support your initiative! I hope that we can all end this cruel situation in the near future! please continue the great work!!

Enviado desde mi iPhone

**From:** [Carolina Fernandez](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 4:33:07 PM

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My name is Carolina Fernandez i am a veterinarian , underwater photographer but before all that I am a human being completely in love with all that surrounds me  
Nature is absolutely amazing and perfect , everything is in complete balance and we as the “most intelligent living beings “are supposed to maintain it  
Animals and earth are not ours , they don t belong us , they are not at our service , we are part of them. We need to understand that the earth is changing because of us and with that many animals are dying, we can t continue with all this plastic , pollution , consumerism, we need to care  
We have to stop eating large quantities of meat, we need to stop overfishing. We must put many attention in what we are killing ,and If you don t care about animals, think about your children and if you are still so selfish think that with this attitude we are killing ourselves.  
Animals deserves our respect , they are an example for us to learn so many things  
Sharks must be protected they are apex predators and without them there is no future , if our oceans get sick we will also take it. Sharks are not human killers , not trophies, not toys , not remedies, not soup there are amazing beings that deserves a better future  
Don't make me be ashamed to call me a human , we can do better

(Pd sorry for my bad English )  
Hoping my kids will have some earth left  
Carolina Fernandez

Enviado desde mi iPhone

**From:** [Buffy Nakachi](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB808  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 8:20:09 PM

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Please accept this email in support of HB808. We need to do all we can to malama the mano and rays in our care in this beautiful aina.

Aloha & Mahalo.

Buffy Nakachi  
808-640-3872

**From:** [brandi bonin](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support HB808 and SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 6:15:23 PM

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Good Evening,

I'm sending my support for the bill. We must protect them.

Respectfully,  
Brandi Bonin

**From:** [B. Fields](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support Testimony for HB808  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2019 4:06:30 AM

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Unfortunately few locations that thrive from the beauty for their oceans protect the creatures that help maintain its ecosystem. Shark fishing has gone rampant and soon we will see its effects, all in the name of vanity and unnecessary consumption. Hawaii, a global leader in tourism, needs to stand up for what is right in order for its oceans to thrive. Our oceans depend on it. By standing up against profit, you will set an example to others and hopefully others can follow suit.

Please support this bill and make the fishing illegal.

In hopes of building a more conscious and more mindful world, may you make the correct decision.

Regards,

Barbara Fields

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Ampalani J](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2019 4:44:56 AM

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The thought of people being so careless and evil with sharks is intolerable and should be illegal. Sharks are essential to the ocean's ecosystem and we need to preserve and protect them whenever we can. Humans outnumber sea life, especially sharks, and continue to grow while many sea creatures are endangered. We need to let mother nature thrive as God intended. Please help the sharks!!!!

**From:** [Andriana Fragola](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 10:02:57 PM

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Good evening,

I support the bill to ban the purposeful killing of rays and sharks in Hawaiian waters. Please consider passing this bill to protect these animals for ecosystem balance as well as honoring traditional Hawaiian culture.

Thank you for your time,  
Andriana

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Adina Ness](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 3:37:18 PM

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Please help to prohibit killing of sharks!

Adina E. Ness, M.S. ECSE  
c: 203-561-0780  
adina.ness@gmail.com

**From:** [Abigale Schmitt](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 8:22:13 PM

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Please keep this bill for protection and conservation of sharks in Hawai'i. Our ocean needs them, they create such a balance. They are crucial to the health of the ocean and they are living creatures who deserve to be just that.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and for protecting our fellow inhabitants of this big blue planet.

Sent from my iPhone

**LATE**

**From:** [Aaron Harville](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Of Bill SB489  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 5:00:52 PM

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Please support this bill. As an island your support for this bill is imperative. These beautiful animals are counting on your state to lead by example.

Sincerely,  
A. Harville

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**HB-808-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 6:52:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/15/2019 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: